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Trade and Industry

2 January 1976

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Home News

Chancellor announces import controls and easier hp 2
Import restrictions on Spanish and Portuguese textiles 2
Surveillance on imported TV sets and colour tubes 3
Funding of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. 3
Rolls-Royce £100m deal with China 3
Case for Concorde in USA 3
Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd. 3
Ferrous Foundry Assistance Scheme 4
Ashbourne Investments Ltd. 4
Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right' 4
Advice to Court Line holidaymakers 5
Hotel occupancy in England 5
Auxiliary coastguard service 6
Amendment to diving regulations 6
Australian Estates, etc 6
Eurocanadian Shipholdings and Furness Withy 6
Clearance of merger proposals 6
Changes in the Price Code: investment relief 7
Deputy Secretary appointment at OFT 7
Government grants for new consumer advice centres 7
Register of Restrictive Trading Agreements 8
Africa Container Lines United 10
Licensing under the Consumer Credit Act 10
Unified electricity industry recommended 10
Customs and Excise annual report 10
Appointments:
English Industrial Estates Corporation
SW Gas Consumers' Council
Scottish Gas Consumers' Council
Northern Gas Consumers' Council
SE Gas Consumers' Council
British Airports Authority 11

Technology

Fire research for industry 12

Technology News

Nuclear imaging symposium in London 15
Noise control and its effect on industry 15
THE seminar on pressure vessels 15
Atomic Energy Authority appointment 15

Parliament

16

BOTB News

26

Exhibitions and Fairs

British hats for Japanese ladies 27
Mechanical and electronic engineering in Brazil 27
Paris Batimat success 27

Trade Information

Improvements in ECGD facilities 28
ECGD News:
£1.4m of UK rail equipment for Peru 28
Two secondhand cargo vessels for Cameroon 28
Iran-UK Joint Ministerial Economic Commission Communique 29
Notices to Importers:
No. 1529: Certain textiles from Spain and Portugal 29
No. 1531: TV sets and tubes: import surveillance 30
Application for temporary exemption from import duty 31
Paper and board tariff quotas: correction 31

Tariff and Trade Notices

Barbados 33, Cayman Islands 33, Chile 33, Israel 32, Italy 32, Ivory Coast 32, Jamaica 32, Luxembourg 31, Malta 32, Netherlands 31, New Zealand 32, Norway 31, Uruguay 33, United States 32

European Community News

Regional Development Fund – UK allocated further £27 million 34
Leonard Williams appointed director-general of energy 34
Infrastructure projects receive £6.2m 35
EIB loan for Shetland oil port 35
Common scientific policy discussed by Research Council 35
Fred Peart rejects beef subsidy proposals 36
UK requests deferment of drivers' hours regulations 36
European Commission support for geothermal energy research 36
The Community's Business Co-operation Centre 37
EEC tariff quotas 1976 38
Tariff quota for newsprint 38
Proposal to open a duty-free tariff quota for bananas 38
New EC legislation 39
Customs regulations 39
Temporary suspension of the EEC CCT 40

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators 41
Overseas travel and tourism 1974-75 42
Activity in the chemicals industry 47
Steel consumption and stocks in the third quarter of 1975 50
Motor vehicle output in November 54
Business Monitor 55
Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in October 55
Sales by wholesale textile houses 56
Production in the cotton industry 56
Output in the wool textile industry 57
Index of industrial production 58
Engineering sales and orders 60
Registration of British, Community and foreign films 61
Release dates of economic statistics to be published in January 62
Index to statistics 63

Home News

Chancellor announces import controls and easier hire purchase

Temporary restraint on certain imports, and selective relaxation of hire purchase restrictions were announced in Parliament on 17 December by Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer. They were among measures aimed at the alleviation of unemployment and the Chancellor also announced that further assistance would be given towards saving or creating jobs and steps would be taken to encourage counter-cyclical stockbuilding.

Import controls

The Chancellor announced the introduction of some further temporary restraints on imports in a limited number of areas.

In the textile and clothing industry some additional restrictions have been negotiated in the last few months by the EEC, under the GATT Multi Fibre Arrangement, and further international action is already in hand.

However, the Government has concluded that on certain textile and clothing imports some further special measures are needed, as follows:

1 Existing restrictions on cotton yarn will be augmented by placing quotas on cotton yarn from Spain.
2 Quotas will be imposed on imports from Portugal of cotton yarn and woven man-made fibre fabrics.
3 The Government will open discussions with Eastern European countries aimed at agreeing levels of restraint on their exports of men's woollen suits to the United Kingdom.
4 Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania will be invited to continue their existing restraint on exports of men's leather footwear throughout 1976, and to extend a similar voluntary restraint on women's and children's leather footwear.

In addition, surveillance licensing is to be introduced for colour television sets and tubes and portable monochrome sets.

Hire purchase restrictions

The Chancellor announced a number of changes to the hire purchase and hiring terms controls which have been in force since December 1973.

From 18 December 1975, controls no longer apply to:

Carpets and other floor coverings
Furniture
Kitchen and bathroom fittings
Mattresses
Space and central heating
Prefabricated buildings
Caravans
Boats

For other industries, with the exception of cars, controls are to be relaxed rather than abolished completely. Apart from the items mentioned above, the minimum down payment is reduced from 33⅓ per cent to 20 per cent and the maximum repayment period extended from 24 months to 30 months.

In line with this, the minimum advance rental payment for hired television sets and other goods subject to hiring controls is reduced from 42 weeks to 26 weeks.

The present hire purchase limits for cars will remain in force for the time being.

However, to allow the seriously disabled to take account of the new mobility allowances – which from 1976 will be available as an alternative to the provision of 3-wheeled invalid vehicles – the purchase of cars by those receiving a mobility allowance will be exempt from hire purchase controls.

When hire purchase controls were reintroduced in 1973 the banks and finance houses were asked to observe similar restrictions on the terms of their lending to persons for the purchase of items covered by the controls. The Governor of the Bank of England has, with the Chancellor's agreement, indicated to the banks that they will be free to match these relaxations in the terms of their lending.

The intention of these measures is not to relax the general restraints on personal credit, but to ease the position of certain selected industries which are important to the economy. The Governor is accordingly asking the banks and finance houses to continue to exercise restraint over the total of their lending to persons.

Stockbuilding

The Government is taking certain steps to help industry to replenish stocks which have declined rapidly this year because of cash flow problems and falling demand.

In the public sector the Government has agreed to a British Steel Corporation proposal to build a special counter-cyclical stockpile of steel at a cost of £70 million this financial year. Agreement has been reached on the terms of Government financing. Of the sum required, 55 per cent will be issued to the Corporation in the form of Public Dividend Capital and the balance will be provided by way of a short term loan from the National Loans Fund. This should both help the Corporation with its immediate problem of under-utilised capacity and help its private sector customers by assuring their supplies of steel when the recovery in demand takes place.

Additionally, the Governor of the Bank of England is restating the qualitative guidance to the banks to make it clear that they should not feel inhibited in lending to manufacturing industry to finance increased working capital, including stocks and work in progress.

Jobs

The assistance towards saving or creating jobs covers a higher allocation (from £30 million to £40 million) to the Manpower Services Commission for the scheme to provide labour-intensive projects in areas of high unemployment; the extension of the Temporary Employment Subsidy scheme to include redundancies of 25 or more instead of 50, so raising the estimated number of workers covered from 60,000 to 70,000; and an increased number of places under the Community Industry Scheme. The Chancellor announced that the net cost to the Exchequer of these measures is much less than the gross cost (£14.5 million) because of savings on social security benefits and the gain in taxation.

Import restrictions on Spanish and Portuguese textiles

The restrictions on imports of cotton yarn from Spain and Portugal and woven fabrics of man-made fibre from Portugal, announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer, came into operation on 17 December.

Details of the restrictions were sent immediately to known importers of these goods, as well as the British Importers' Confederation, the Textile Distributors' Association, and the Retail Consortium.

The quotas up to 31 December 1976 will be 2,732 tonnes of Spanish yarn, 4,924 tonnes of Portuguese yarn and 2,221 tonnes of Portuguese fabric. These quotas will be allocated on the basis of past trade.

Goods which were in transit to the United Kingdom before 18 December and which arrived before 1 January 1976 were admitted without a licence. Additionally, goods despatched from the suppliers' premises to the UK before 18 December, although not loaded into a ship or aircraft before that date, and which arrived in the UK before 24 December, were admitted without a licence.

It may take some time to make allocations from the quotas and issue licences after importers have forwarded certified statements of their past trade to the Department of Trade. Interim licences, valid to 29 February 1976, will be issued if the importer states that the quantity of goods covered by the applications is less than 20 per cent of his imports of the goods in a recent 12 month period.

The Notice to Importers setting out the details is published on page 29 of this issue.

Surveillance arrangements on imported television sets and colour television tubes

The Department of Trade is to introduce surveillance arrangements on imports of colour TV sets, colour TV tubes and monochrome TV sets with screens of 15 in and less as from 15 January.

These arrangements, which were announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on 17 December, will apply to imports from all sources, and individual import licences will therefore be required for all imports of these goods.

Licences, valid for three months, will be issued freely against evidence, in the form of correspondence or orders, of intent to import but importers will be required to provide some detailed information about their imports of colour tubes.

The Notice to Importers setting out the detail is published on page 30.

Funding of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.

The Government is awaiting Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.'s operating plan for 1976 before deciding on what funds the company should receive, Parliament was told on 18 December. In answer to a written Parliamentary Question from Alf Bates (Bebington and Ellesmere Port) Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry made it clear that the Government's 100 per cent shareholding in Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. is shortly to be transferred to the National Enterprise Board which will be responsible for the company's financing. (*See also page 23.*)

Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. (left) together with Sir Stanley Hooker, technical director of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd., and Mr. Tsui Chun (right) managing director of the China National Technical Import Corporation, after the recent signing of contracts worth £100 million. Mr. Chun is holding a model of the reheat military Spey engine which is to be made under licence in the People's Republic of China.

Rolls-Royce signs £100m deal with China

Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. and the People's Republic of China have concluded agreements for the licensed manufacture of Rolls-Royce Spey aero engines in China and an initial supply of these engines. The contracts were signed in Peking by Sir Kenneth Keith, Chairman of Rolls-Royce (1971) and by Tsui Chun, Managing Director of China National Technical Import Corporation on behalf of the People's Republic of China.

The value to Rolls-Royce will be about £80 million. Completion of these arrangements is expected to lead to other agreements which will bring the total value to Britain to approximately £100 million.

Rolls-Royce is manufacturing civil and military versions of the Spey for a range of applications including Hawker Siddeley Trident airliners which are in service in the Peoples' Republic of China.

Case for Concorde in USA

Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State, Department of Industry, is to advocate the UK's case for Concorde being allowed to use New York and Washington Airports.

He will lead the UK delegation at a hearing to be held in Washington on 5 January into whether British Airways and Air France should be permitted to operate Concorde commercial services into Kennedy Airport, New York and Dulles Airport, Washington. The Minister will be accompanied by officials from the Department of Trade and representatives of the aircraft and engine manufacturers, and from British Airways.

Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd.

Agreement was reached on 19 December between the Department of Industry, Barclays Bank, Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd. and the Joint Receivers of Norton Villiers Triumph Manufacturing Ltd., on a scheme for an orderly rundown of activities at the NVT Small Heath factory.

A new company within the NVT group to be called NVT Engineering Ltd., has acquired plant and other assets from the Receiver and will employ approximately 300 personnel in an adjacent factory. This

factory will continue certain precision engineering contract work and the manufacture of motorcycle parts currently carried on in the Small Heath factory.

The Government has agreed to take part in the scheme by providing £275,000 in the form of a loan and by guaranteeing bank loans to enable the existing motorcycle work-in-progress at Small Heath to be completed. This assistance is being given within the £8 million limit of assistance to NVT agreed by the House of Commons in March 1975.

The Government is taking part in this scheme because the continuing undertaking will provide backing to enable stocks of motorcycles held overseas and exported under a Government export credit guarantee to be disposed of in an orderly fashion and to enable better service to be given to owners of British motorcycles throughout the world. The Government has undertaken no commitment to support continued manufacture by NVT of motorcycles.

Barclays Bank has also agreed to support the scheme by the provision of a facility to NVT Engineering Ltd., equal to that of the Government.

Ferrous Foundry Assistance Scheme

Following the first meeting of the Ferrous Foundry Assistance Scheme Advisory Committee on 17 December, the Department of Industry has approved two applications for assistance under the Government's scheme to the ferrous foundry industry. One is by a rollmaking company and the other by a major engineering company in the East Midlands. The assistance will amount to about £600,000 for the two projects.

Ashbourne Investments Ltd.

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has directed that the 465,500 ordinary shares of Ashbourne Investments Ltd., registered in the name of Samuel Montagu and Co (Nominees) Ltd., for the account of Bank Julius Baer and Co. Ltd. of Zurich, be subject to the restrictions under the provisions of Section 174 of the Companies Act 1948. The direction includes restrictions on the transfer of the shares and the voting rights attached to them.

Inspectors appointed by Mr. Shore to investigate the affairs of Ashbourne Investments Ltd. have been unable to obtain information as to the beneficial owner of these shares. Mr. Shore's action follows this development.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the dates specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
4 December 1975		
1,288,356	Mefina S.A.	Improvements in or relating to solid lubricants
1,290,985	Mefina S.A.	Improvements in or relating to a multi-purpose presser foot
1,295,911	Mefina S.A.	Improvements in or relating to a sewing machine
1,296,326	Mefina S.A.	Improvements in or relating to a fuze for a non-gyratory projectile
1,297,897	Mefina S.A.	Improvements in or relating to a presser foot for a sewing machine
1,311,219	Mefina S.A.	Fuze for a gyratory rocket missile including a safety device
1,316,400	Mefina S.A.	Improvements in or relating to a sewing machine case
1,321,035	Mefina S.A.	Improvements in or relating to a device for coupling a fly-wheel to a shaft
1,196,050	Fred Clive Jackson	Improved article of furniture
1,281,006	The Post Office	Improvements in or relating to the processing of carbon granules
1,290,854	Eric Sandelands	Improvements in or relating to closures
1,313,475	Mario Turatti	Improvements in or relating to flashing indicator devices
1,328,165	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Rotatory assembly for gold-needle-semiconductor diodes with an automatic insertion of the needle
1,381,259	Wilson Miller and Co. Ltd.	Improvements in power transmission systems
1,399,069	Cincinnati Milacron Inc.	Improvements in guards for machine tools
8 December 1975		
1,093,446	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Powder metallurgical metal bodies containing an additive or additives and process for the production thereof
1,165,880	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Halogen-gas filled projection lamp with a power of 1kW or more
1,194,892	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Process for producing incandescent lamps having a gas filling including halogen
1,197,338	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Incandescent electric lamp with tungsten coil filament and a filling of a mixture of halogen and gases
1,234,621	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Apparatus for the continuous, automatic indication of solid impurities in ampoule charges
1,261,900	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Pulse operated reed contact units and magnetic reed relays comprising such contacts
1,289,178	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	A conveying or pumping device
1,317,276	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Thermocouple wire adapted to be used for measurement of temperatures
1,327,479	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	An incandescent lamp
1,334,862	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Device for the feeding of coils or similar objects
1,335,398	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	A method for the manufacture of activated cathodes
1,349,384	Egyesult Izzolampa es Villamossagi Reszvenytarsasag	Process for increasing the stability of planar semiconductor devices
1,232,371	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd.	Air brake control valve
1,323,043	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd.	Packing equipment for use in underground mines
1,364,651	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd.	Dust suppression means for mining machines
1,294,164	Albert Edward Wardle	Improvements relating to combined cheese board and cutter
1,365,067	United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority	Improvements in or relating to high hot strength magnesite refractories
12 December 1975		
1,297,077	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	New sensitising dyes and their use in photographic emulsions
1,347,804	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Photochromic materials
1,188,483	International Standard Electric Corporation	A circuit arrangement for a centrally controlled telecommunications installation, and more particularly for a telephone exchange
1,355,129	International Standard Electric Corporation	Individual telephone line equipment
1,259,001	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to telecommunication exchanges
1,357,661	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Printed circuit boards
1,124,172	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in vehicle attitude correcting devices
1,258,291	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault and Automobiles Reugeot	Improvements in automatic devices for controlling air-vents of automobile vehicles
1,133,100	Eugene Louis Klein, Richard John Martinelli, Doug Emory Sloan, trading as K and M Associates – Hot Rod Division	Improvements in gas heaters
1,175,210	Emmerich (Berlon) Ltd.	Planing jig
1,344,659	Alfred Mathes	Lubricating device for pneumatic tools
1,386,783	Fairbairn Lawson Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to panels for screens
1,398,967	Anderson Development Co.,	Improvements in or relating to the production of aliphatic organic silicates

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Railfreight has won a ten-year contract with BP Chemicals International Ltd. for the movement of up to 100,000 tons a year of chemicals between BP's factories near Hull and at Baglan Bay near Swansea. The photo shows the private siding at BP's Hull factory with some of the wagons which are being used to transport the chemicals. On the journey from Hull, the train, made up of privately-owned 45-ton tank wagons, will convey acetic acid, used to manufacture vinyl acetate for paints and adhesives. On the return journey it will carry ethanol and isopropanol used in the production of lacquers and inks, food essences, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

Mr. Deakins' advice to Court Line holidaymakers

Eric Deakins, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade has advised all Court Line holidaymakers who have not yet been compensated to take care to preserve any evidence of their payments to travel agents.

Mr. Deakins was giving a written answer in the House of Commons on 16 December to a question from Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) who asked if the Minister was satisfied that the scheme recently announced by the Association of British Travel Agents for dealing with booking monies still held by travel agents at the time of the collapse of the Court Line companies, Clarksons Holidays Ltd. and Halcyon Holidays Ltd., would adequately safeguard the customers concerned.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'This is a matter for the liquidators and the travel agents. Since it offers the prospect that many holidaymakers may be repaid much sooner than would otherwise be possible, given the complex situation with which the liquidators were faced, I certainly hope that it will prove successful. Success, however, depends primarily on the full co-operation of the travel agents concerned.

'In the meantime, it is important that any disappointed Court Line customers who have not yet been compensated should take care to preserve any evidence of their payments.'

Notes

No payments have so far been made to a large group of Court Line holidaymakers whose money was still held by travel agents at the time of the collapse. This delay has occurred because of legal problems, as it has been uncertain whether:

1 the monies held by travel agents should be paid to the liquidators, in which case the customers claim on the Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency; or

2 the monies held by travel agents should be refunded directly to customers who would then have no claim on the Agency.

Test cases had been started in the Courts to resolve this problem. The Association of British Travel Agents recently announced a scheme put by the liquidators to, and approved by, the Court to avoid such litigation.

Under this scheme, all travel agents holding booking monies have been asked to pay them to an independent firm of accountants. Subject to a sufficient proportion of these booking monies, as approved by the Court, reaching the liquidators under this scheme, the liquidators have agreed to accept this in satisfaction of their claim. The scheme provides for the balance of the booking monies, in so far as it has not already been repaid to customers, to be held for this purpose by the independent firm of accountants.

The number of customers and the sums involved are not known, but estimates vary between £2-£3 million. The final date for making payments to the firm of accountants is 31 December, so it will not be known until early January whether the scheme has proved successful.

There were three air travel organisers in the Court Line group, namely Clarksons Holidays Ltd., Halcyon Holidays Ltd. (trading as Horizon Holidays and 4S Travel) and Airfair Ltd. The scheme applies to Clarksons and Halcyon only.

It is intended to ensure that customers who have not already been repaid retain any documentary evidence of payments they have made, because this may be of crucial importance in establishing their claim. Any claims not already made should therefore be submitted in accordance with the guidance given in the Department of Trade's leaflet 'Claims and Payments 1974-75'.

Clarksons Holidays and Halcyon Holidays had both provided bonds, which have enabled payments to be made of about £1,127,000 to 24,000 customers of Clarksons and about £674,000 to 7,000 customers of Halcyon Holidays.

In addition, the Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency has paid about £1,093,000 to 26,700 customers of Clarksons Holidays; about £129,000 to 2,800 customers of Halcyon Holidays; and about £417,000 to 6,500 customers of Airfair.

These payments comprise about £3,442,000 paid to some 68,000 customers. In addition a large number of holidaymakers have already been refunded by travel agents and the scheme takes account of this.

Hotel occupancy in England

Results from the English hotel occupancy survey commissioned by the English Tourist Board show that the level of hotel occupancy throughout England in 1975 was slightly down on that of 1974.

The main drop was in August when bed occupancy reached 69 per cent, which, although higher than in 1973, was not as

high as in 1974, when the average English hotel had 72 per cent of its beds occupied.

Up to May (with the exception of April when results appeared low because of Easter not falling in this month in 1975) occupancy levels were almost identical of those of 1974, but later in the year (except in July) occupancy fell very slightly.

These results, covering January to September, are based on information obtained from a sample of listed hotels throughout England. This sample has been extended since June 1975 to enable more reliable and more detailed information to be obtained about occupancy in the English tourist regions. It is now possible to compare the occupancy performance of higher and lower priced hotels in most regions of the country.

As far as London hotels are concerned the most noteworthy result is that the decline in occupancy of the higher priced hotels (now charging £8.50 or more for single bed and breakfast) experienced throughout 1974, came to a halt in 1975, when such hotels enjoyed increased occupancy right through from January to September. Figures for London hotels as a whole, however, show little improvement over 1974.

Auxiliary coastguard service

There are no reductions in expenditure on the auxiliary coastguard service. Expenditure rose sharply from 1972/73 to 1974/75 and the Department of Trade has been looking into the hours worked by auxiliaries to ensure that all are essential.

This was stated by Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping in a written answer in the House of Commons on 18 December.

Kevin McNamara (Kingston-upon-Hull, Central) asked the Minister for a statement regarding the reductions in expenditure on the auxiliary coastguard service.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'There are no such reductions. Expenditure on auxiliary coastguard remuneration rose from £167,000 in 1972/73 to £231,000 in 1973/74 and to £435,000 in 1974/75, while the Department's revised estimate for the current year is £667,000; over the same period the hourly rate of pay has about doubled.

'In view of this sharp increase in expenditure, my Department has been looking into the hours worked by auxiliaries to ensure that all are essential to maintain the service at an optimum level. As announced last August there are plans to develop our search and rescue services which include greater reliance on the auxiliairies whose work is very valuable; but this underlines the need to secure the full efficiency of their operations.'

There are about 8,000 auxiliary coastguards, who are paid according to the number of hours and the nature of the duties they undertake. The number of regular coastguard staff is at present about 600.

Amendment to the diving regulations

The Department of Trade published an Order on 17 December amending the diving regulations so that they no longer apply to diving training schools and certain kinds of research diving. The new regulations came into force on 1 January.

Although the regulations, introduced earlier last year, were intended mainly to regulate the particularly hazardous diving carried out in the North Sea, they also applied in certain circumstances to other less hazardous operations.

The operations include those of diving schools, to which other safeguards can be applied, and, in some circumstances, to diving for the purpose of scientific research or archaeology.

As a result of experience gained in applying the regulations, the Department has concluded that it can safely exclude these operations from the scope of the regulations, especially since they tend to impose unnecessary restrictions on the 'short-air' divers operating in relatively shallow waters.

The Department intends to keep a close watch on the development of research and training, however, and would be ready to reimpose restraints if techniques comparable to those employed for the purposes of commercial North Sea diving were introduced.

With the amendment, the regulations will apply to 'diving operations carried on in the course of or in connection with any trade or business (not including archaeology or non-commercial research) other than a school for the training of divers'. Hitherto they have also applied to 'diving by any person for hire or reward'.

Australian Estates, First Re-Investment Trust, Nelson Financial Trust, and English and Scottish Unit Trust Holdings

The Inspectors' second and final report on the affairs of the Australian Estates Co. Ltd., First Re-Investment Trust Ltd., Nelson Financial Trust Ltd., and English and Scottish Unit Trust Holdings Ltd., was published on 18 December.

The Inspectors, Mr. D. C. H. Hirst, QC, and Mr. R. N. D. Langdon, FCA, were appointed under the provisions of Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948, on 10 July 1973, to investigate the affairs of First Re-Investment Trust Ltd., and Nelson Financial Trust Ltd., and, on 10 December 1973, to investigate the affairs of English and Scottish Unit Trust Holdings Ltd. Their interim report on these companies was published in July 1974.

The Inspectors were also appointed, under the provisions of Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948, on 19 February 1974, to investigate the affairs of the Australian Estates Co. Ltd., in so far as they related to the disposal of the company's shareholdings in South Winnipeg Ltd. and Angus Milling (Holdings) Ltd.; the report now published deals principally with those transactions.

The report was submitted on 6 August 1975, before the death of Sir Denys Lowson.

Copies of the report are available from HMSO, price £4.20 net.

Eurocanadian Shipholdings and Furness Withy

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which has already been asked by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973, to investigate and report on the acquisition by Eurocanadian Shipholdings Ltd. of a substantial minority shareholding in Furness Withy and Co. Ltd., is additionally being asked to investigate and report on whether there are arrangements in progress or contemplation, which, if carried into effect, would result in a merger situation between the two companies for the purposes of the Act. The Commission is being asked to make its report by 28 May 1976, the period allowed for the original reference.

This additional reference is being made because only since the making of the original reference has it become known that Eurocanadian Shipholdings Ltd. had not in fact completed the purchase of all those shares in Furness Withy and Co. Ltd. understood to constitute its holding. As with the original reference, the decision to make the additional reference to the Commission does not in any way prejudge the question whether or not a merger is contrary to the public interest. It is for the Commission to report on this after investigation.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the proposed mergers of Tenneco Inc/Harmo Industries Ltd. and Dentsply International Inc./AD International Ltd. to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Changes in the Price Code: investment relief

Firms are to be allowed to continue to take benefit from investment relief in their prices and profit margins between April and July 1976 under a proposed amendment to the Price Code announced on 17 December by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. Details of the proposed changes are given in a Consultative Document published on the same day.

Since the Government intend to extend the existing powers of price control from 31 March 1976, when they would otherwise expire, until 31 July 1976, firms that wish to maintain until 31 July 1976 the increases in prices and margins that can be justified under the present investment relief will be free to do so. Firms may alternatively choose to calculate a further year's entitlement to investment relief based on their investment expenditure over a second year.

Comments on these proposals, which should arrive not later than Friday 9 January 1976, should be sent to:

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection,
Room 532B,
1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

For any inquiries about the Consultative Document, telephone 01-215 5743.

Note

The investment relief was introduced into the Price Code in December 1974 and extended in May 1975. It permits firms to recover, through increases in prices and profit margins, up to 20 per cent of their investment expenditure over a 12-month period on plant, machinery, industrial buildings, warehouses and commercial vehicles and covers investment in production for export as well as for the home market.

CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PRICE CODE

Investment relief extension

Under the Counter Inflation Act 1973, the powers to enforce a Price Code in Part II of that Act would be due to expire at the end of March 1976. In the Remuneration, Charges and Grants Act 1975 provision exists for these provisions to be extended until 31 July 1976 in line with the current phase of the counter-inflation policy, and the necessary Order will be made in due course.

The current Price Code came into operation on 20 December 1974. It included an investment relief under which firms could reflect in prices over a 12 month period (the 'relief year') a proportion of firmly-budgeted investment over a 12 month period (the 'investment year'). The Code provided that firms whose relief year expired before 31 March 1976 could continue to take the benefit in prices and profit margins until that date, then regarded as the terminal date for Part II of the 1973 Act.

Since the Government intend to exercise the powers in section 2 of the Remuneration, Charges and Grants Act 1975 to extend certain provisions of Part II of the Counter Inflation Act 1973 until 31 July 1976, it will be necessary to amend the Price Code so that firms can continue to take benefit from the investment relief during that period. Failing such an amendment, it would have been necessary for firms to adjust their prices and profit margins after 31 March 1976 where they had exhausted their entitlement for their 'relief year'.

It is proposed to amend the Price Code, so that firms which wish to maintain increases in prices and profit margins until 31 July 1976 will be free to do so.

It is proposed that, as an alternative, firms may exercise the option to calculate a new entitlement related to firmly-budgeted investment expenditure over a second 'investment year', following consecutively on their first investment year. For firms choosing to exercise this option, the new entitlement may be reflected in prices, on the same basis as has happened over the first year, in addition to any entitlement still outstanding from the first relief year. The present rules about the calculation of resulting price increases would continue to apply – for example increases would be calculated over a 12 month period – but this would be without prejudice to the situation after 31 July 1976.

Annexed is a draft of the proposed amendments to the Price Code (contained in the Schedule to SI 1974 No. 2113 as amended by SI 1974 No. 2158 and SI 1975 Nos. 864 and 1293). Any comments on the Government's proposals should reach the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection not later than 9 January 1976.

Procedural requirements

Certain consequential amendments to the procedural Orders will be required. Category I and II firms calculating a new entitlement will have to give the Price Commission details about their claim for a second 'investment year' before any new benefit is taken in prices or profit margins.

Annex – proposed amendments to the Price Code

1 In the proviso to paragraph 79(4) for '31 March 1976' read '31 July 1976'.

2 In paragraph 79(6) after 'paragraph' insert 'and under this paragraph as applied by paragraph 79A'.

3 After paragraph 79 insert –

79A – (1) An enterprise which has obtained relief under paragraph 79 may obtain further relief under that paragraph as applied by this paragraph; and for that purpose the provisions of paragraph 79 shall have effect accordingly and subject to the following provisions of this paragraph.

(2) For the purposes of this paragraph, the definitions of 'investment year' and 'relief year' in subparagraph (2) of paragraph 79 shall not have effect and 'investment year' and 'relief year' shall mean respectively a period of 12 months beginning immediately after the end of the investment year or of the relief year, as the case may be, by reference to which relief under paragraph 79 was calculated.

(3) Where relief is obtained under this paragraph, paragraph 79(4) shall cease to have effect.

(4) If the application of subparagraph (3) of paragraph 79 has not caused the whole of the relevant expenditure for the purposes of that paragraph to be recovered in sales before the beginning of the relief year for purposes of this paragraph, the part not so recovered may be added to the relevant expenditure determined for the purposes of this paragraph.

(5) References to paragraph 79 in any provisions of the Code, other than paragraph 79 and the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, include references to paragraph 79 as applied by this paragraph.

Deputy Secretary appointment at OFT

The post of Deputy Director General in the Office of Fair Trading has been regraded at Deputy Secretary level. John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed Mr. F. W. Glaves-Smith, CB, to the new post.

Frank Glaves-Smith (56) has been Deputy Director General since the establishment of the Office of Fair Trading in November 1973.

The Deputy Director General will be responsible to the Director General across the whole range of the Office's activities. He will remain head of the Monopolies and Mergers Division. The salary is £14,000.

Government grants for new consumer advice centres

Forty-nine projects for setting up consumer advice centres have been allotted Government grants totalling about £1.4 million, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced on 30 December. The scheme of grants to local authorities, limited to £50,000 per project, forms part of the Government's counter-inflation measures to improve the help and advice available to consumers.

The total grants applied for by local authorities considerably exceeded the £1.4 million available, and the projects have been selected on the basis of their suitability and location. They will serve areas with a total population of 9.9 million.

These grants, for which applications were invited in September, will cover the setting-up costs of the centres and running-costs up to March 1977, After that, local authorities will finance the new developments in the same way as existing consumer advice services.

The Register of Restrictive Trading Agreements (Restrictive Trade Practices Acts 1956 to 1973)

Additions and amendments to the Register

A list of additions and amendments made to the alphabetical index to the register between 1 October and 31 December 1975 is given below; the amendments are shown in italics. The index as it stood at 30 July 1957 was published in the *Board of Trade Journal* on 16 August 1957 (pages 371-378) to which subsequent additions and amendments have been published at approximately quarterly intervals – the last on 3 October 1975.

The purpose of the index is to help the public in searching for agreements in the public register itself. The index shows commodities which are the subject of agreements on the register, and the commodities are described exactly as they are in the particulars submitted to the Director General of Fair Trading of the agreements concerned. Where an agreement operates in a particular area, this has been indicated whenever practicable. The symbol 'B' placed in the index against an agreement denotes that a direction has been issued, copy of which is on the registered file, discharging the Director General of Fair Trading from his obligation to take proceedings in the Restrictive Practices Court in respect of that particular agreement during the continuance in force of the direction. Symbol 'C' indicates that the agreement in question has been referred to the Restrictive Practices Court and that the Court has made a declaration or order, a copy of which has been entered on the registered file. 'D' means that an agreement has been determined; 'E' signifies that an agreement has expired or will expire at a given date; and 'F' indicates that an agreement has been varied, whether by the removal of registrable restrictions or otherwise as to its terms or parties, so that it would not have been registrable at all had it taken the varied form at the time of registration. The date following each symbol indicates the month concerned.

Wembley Auction Sales 1975/76

6 January 1976

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Division Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

'D' and 'F' agreements

The list below headed 'D' and 'F' brings up to date at 31 December 1975 the list of agreements determined or varied as described above. Although these agreements already appear in the above mentioned list of additions and amendments, they are shown separately under this heading for the benefit of readers. Agreements which were registered as running for a specified period which has now expired or will expire on a given date (ie those marked 'E' in the main list), are not included in the 'D' and 'F' list; in many cases these 'E' agreements are intended to be renewed or re-made in a similar form on expiry.

It should be noted that the inclusion of an agreement about a commodity in the 'D' and 'F' list does not necessarily mean that there are no other restrictive agreements about that commodity. Further, a 'D' or 'F' agreement may sometimes be replaced by a new agreement which will appear in the main list of additions and amendments when it is registered.

Agreements referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

On 10 April 1959 there was published in the *Board of Trade Journal* (page 859) a list of all agreements in respect of which Notices of Reference (constituting formal commencement of proceedings before the Restrictive Practices Court) had been issued, except those which had already been dealt with by the Court.

Subsequent additions have been published at approximately quarterly intervals there have been no additions to the list in the quarter ending 31 December 1975. Anyone who may be in a position to assist the Court with evidence from his own experience of results of any of these agreements, which he thinks affect the public interest, is asked to communicate as early as possible with the Treasury Solicitors, 3 Central Buildings, Mathew Parker Street, London SW1H 9NN. The agreements shown in square brackets have been abandoned after the issue of a Notice of Reference.

Agreements not to be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection may, on the representation of the Director General of Fair Trading, give directions under Section 9(2) of the Act of 1968 discharging him, during their continuance in force, from the duty of referring an agreement to the Restrictive Practices Court. Lists (commencing 11 April 1969) headed as this paragraph is headed, have been published periodically in the *Board of Trade Journal* (now incorporated in *Trade and Industry*) giving details of agreements in respect of which directions under the sub-section have been given and are in force. These agreements are indicated in the index to the register by the symbol 'B'. Although these agreements are already included in the above-mentioned list of additions and amendments, they are shown separately under this heading for the benefit of readers.

Inspection of the Register

The Register may be inspected between 10 am and 4.30 pm on any weekday except Saturday and certain holidays at any of the following addresses:

Office of Fair Trading
Chancery House
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1SP

9 Hope Street
Edinburgh EH2 4EL

Department of Commerce
176 Newtownbreda Road
Belfast BT1 4JX

The fee for inspecting the Register is 50p per day, but if fewer than five agreements are inspected, the fee is 10p for each agreement.

Indexes to the Register, one as published in *Trade and Industry* and one in which commodities are grouped by classes, may be inspected at these addresses free of charge.

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity		
	B		
3856	Bacon pigs		*add B 11/75*
2854	Boats	c 12/64	*add B 11/75*
3824	Borosilicate ware; clear flat glass; coloured containers. Colourless containers; crystal glasses; glass fibre insulation; optical and ophthalmic; sand for manufacturing glass; tableware		*add B 11/75*
3869	Bread		
3885	Bread		
3887	Bread		
3888	Bread		
3889	Bread		
3890	Bread		
3891	Bread		
3892	Bread		
3893	Bread		
3894	Bread		
3895	Bread		
3896	Bread		
3897	Bread		
3899	Bread		
3900	Bread		
3901	Bread		
3902	Bread		
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3936	Bread		
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3938	Bread		
3939	Bread		
3940	Bread		
3941	Bread		
3942	Bread		
3943	Bread		
3944	Bread		
3945	Bread		
3886	Bread	Bradford and Manchester Area	
3880	Bread	Bristol Area	
3903	Bread	N. Ireland	
3917	Bread	Lincolnshire Area	
3881	Bread	Manchester Area	
3882	Bread	Manchester Area	
3883	Bread	Manchester Area	
3884	Bread	Manchester Area	
3919	Bread	Manchester Area	
3871	Bread	Midlands Area	
3898	Bread	Midlands Area	
3870	Bread	Midland and Northern Region	
3872	Bread	Midlands Region	
3873	Bread	North N/W, NE and Midlands Area	
3878	Bread	North West and North East Area	
3874	Bread	Scottish Area	
3879	Bread	Southern Area	
3875	Bread	Southern and London Region	
3877	Bread	Southern and South West Area	
3876	Bread	South West Area	
3929	Bread	South Wales and North Somerset	

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity		
	C		
3789	Commercial vehicle batteries		*add B 11/75*
3857	Concrete condeep platforms		*add F 11/75*
3947	Concrete garage		
3162	Construction of buildings		*add B 11/75*
	E		
3763	Eggs		*add B 11/75*
	F		
2677	Fish		*add F 11/75*
3022	Fish		*add F 11/75*
3023	Fish	Fleetwood	*add F 11/75*
3021	Fish	Hull	*add F 11/75*
3026	Fish	North Shields	*add F 11/75*
	G		
3008	Groceries		*add B 11/75*
3837	Groceries and provisions		*add B 11/75*
3828	Groceries, wines and spirits		*add B 11/75*
	H		
3868	Hi-Fi equipment		
	I		
3858	Industrial measuring and control apparatus		
	L		
1145	Laundry and dry cleaning equipment		*add F 11/75*
	M		
3790	Marine batteries		*add B 11/75*
	P		
3802	Plastic baths		*add F 12/75*
	T		
3746	Transformers		*add E 11/73*
	Z		
3948	Zinc die casting alloy		

'D' AND 'F' AGREEMENTS

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity	Area	D or F	Date
1145	Laundry and dry cleaning equipment		F	Nov. 1975
2677	Fish		F	Nov. 1975
3021	Fish	Hull	F	Nov. 1975
3022	Fish		F	Nov. 1975
3023	Fish	Fleetwood	F	Nov. 1975
3026	Fish	North Shields	F	Nov. 1975
3802	Plastic baths		F	Dec. 1975
3857	Concrete condeep platforms		F	Nov. 1975

Agreements not to be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity
2854	Boats
3008	Groceries
3162	Construction of buildings
3763	Eggs
3789	Commercial vehicle batteries
3790	Marine batteries
3824	Borosilicate ware; clear flat glass; coloured containers; colourless containers; crystal glasses; glass-fibre insulations; optical and ophthalmic; sand for manufacturing glass; tableware
3828	Groceries, wines and spirits
3837	Groceries and provisions
3856	Bacon pigs

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn WC1V 6HB

Africa Container Lines United

Africa Container Lines United, a company which acted as freight forwarders and intermodal operators between UK, Europe and Nigeria, has now ceased trading. The joint liquidators, Mr. Leonard Curtis (of Leonard Curtis and Company) and Mr. Peter Barrows (of Price Waterhouse and Company), were appointed on 18 December 1975.

Consignors with goods carried in ships chartered by AFCL are advised that *Sol Neptun* and *Anna Presthus* discharged outward bound cargo from the United Kingdom at Lagos during weeks commencing 24 November 1975 and 15 December 1975 respectively.

Consignors seeking further information are advised that owners and agents of ships chartered by AFCL are as follows:

Owners/agents of vessels

Anna Presthus – Johs Presthus Rederi, PO Box 113, Oestre Nestjuvie 16, N.5051, Nesttun, Norway. Tel. 71525, telex: 42143.

Anna von Bargen – Hartmut Drebing V.G., Armgartstr. 2, D-2000 Hamburg 76, West Germany. Tel. 2201217, telex: 214986.

Bow Ek, Bow Oak – A/S Minde Chartering, 5032 Minde Per Bergen, Norway. Tel. 283880, telex: 42666.

Eastern Street – Hammerton Shipping Co., 43 Portland Road, London W11 4LJ. Tel. 01-299 9983, telex: 268991.

Cambridge – Ernst Russ, Esq., Alsterarkaden 27, Hamburg 36, West Germany. Tel. 36841, telex: 214084.

Grethe Reith – 'Orion' Schiffahrts-Gesellschaft, Reith and Co., Palmaille 118, Postfach 50 11 09, 2000 Hamburg 50, West Germany. Tel. 381612, telex: 212759.

Hetland Renger – A. H. Basse Rederi A/S, 10 Hanne Nielsensvej, 2840 Holte, Denmark. Tel. 424144, telex: 16700.

Monsun – Hugo Stinnes Sweigniederlassung, Hamburg. Telex: 2161279.

Weser Exporter – Weser-Schiffahrts-Agentur GmbH, PO Box 348, Weserstrasse 2, 2887 Elsfleth, West Germany. Tel. 2547, telex: 25228.

Further information will be published as soon as possible.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842.

Licensing under the Consumer Credit Act

Debt-adjusting, debt-counselling, and debt-collecting businesses and credit reference agencies must be licensed from 3 August 1976.

The Consumer Credit Act (Commencement No. 1) Order 1975* published on 22 December, makes it an offence to carry on such a business from that date without a licence issued by the Director General of Fair Trading.

A register of applications for licences, their issue, and other licensing matters will be maintained by the Office of Fair Trading from 2 February 1976. This is the date appointed by the Commencement Order on which Sections 35 and 36 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 come into operation and from which the Office of Fair Trading expect to invite licence applications.

Standard licences will be valid for three years, as provided in the Consumer Credit (Period of Standard Licence) Regulations 1975*.

The Order and Regulations are the first to be made under the Consumer Credit Act 1974. Licensing under the Act will be introduced in three stages according to the type of business carried on. The businesses covered by this commencement order will be called up first. Commencement orders relating to the licensing of consumer credit business, consumer hire business and credit brokerage will be made in due course.

* The Commencement Order is SI 1975 No. 2123 (price 8p, 14½p by post) and the Regulations are SI 1975 No. 2124 (price 5p, 11½p by post). Copies may be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB and branches, or by post from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH or through booksellers.

Unified electricity industry recommended by Plowden committee

The Plowden Committee of Inquiry into the structure of the electricity supply industry in England and Wales has recommended that the industry should be unified under a single statutory body, to be named the Central Electricity Board.

This was announced on 19 December by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, in a written Parliamentary answer. He said that he had received the committee's report and was considering its findings. Mr. Benn continued: 'The committee's main conclusion is that the industry's present structure, which emphasises the independence of the Central Electricity Generating Board and the Area Electricity Boards, has produced a situation in which the Electricity Council is unable to give the industry the strong leadership and central direction it requires.

'It has accordingly recommended that the industry should be unified under a single statutory body, to be named the Central Electricity Board, which would take over the existing responsibilities of the Electricity Council, the CEGB and the Area Boards.

'I am arranging for the Report to be published as soon as possible, and shall, of course, seek the views of those who work in the industry, including the unions concerned, and other interested bodies before reaching conclusions.'

The present structure of the electricity supply industry in England and Wales dates from the Electricity Act 1957. The industry is organised on a federal basis, comprising the Electricity Council, the Central Electricity Generating Board and 12 area boards responsible for distribution and retail sales.

The electricity supply industry in Scotland is organised separately from that in England and Wales and consists of two boards – the South of Scotland Electricity Board and the North of Scotland Hydroelectric Boards. These boards are responsible for both generation and distribution in their areas under the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Customs and Excise annual report

Customs and Excise receipts for the year ended 31 March 1975 totalled £7,425.5 million, an increase of 18.9 per cent over the previous year and 33.5 per cent of the yield of Central Government taxation.

These statistics are contained in the report of the Commissioners of HM Customs and Excise for the Year ending 31 March 1975 was published on 17 December (HMSO Cmnd. 6307) price £2.35.

The cost of Customs and Excise administration was approximately £123.3 million, representing about 1.66 pence for every £1 of net revenue.

Included in the total net receipts is £2,509.5 million from VAT representing 33.8 per cent of the total. As the tax is payable in arrears, this was the first time a full year's tax had been received. Approximately 1,223,800 persons and firms were registered for VAT at 31 March 1975.

In addition to its normal duties the Department, at the request of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was involved during the year in considering the procedural changes which would be needed in the VAT system if additional rates were introduced. Over 300 trade bodies and individual traders ex-

pressed views, many of which were helpful in developing procedures to cope with the higher rate of 25 per cent which was eventually introduced.

Net receipts from hydrocarbon oil duty fell by 2.4 per cent from £1,586.7 million in 1973-74 to £1,549.1 million; this represents 20.9 per cent of the total Customs and Excise receipts. The fall was mainly due to reaction to the large price increases which occurred during the year. Consumption of petrol in 1974-75 was 2.0 per cent down, of derv 3.5 per cent down and of other heavy oil 7.2 per cent down compared with 1973-74.

Although purchase tax was abolished on 1 April 1973 arrears of tax amounting to £1.2 million were collected during 1974-75.

The total value of imports did not rise so sharply this year as during the previous year, the increase in 1974-75 being 33.9 per cent compared with 46.5 per cent in 1973-74. Receipts of protective duty rose only by 14.5 per cent, from £437.5 million in 1973-74 to £501.0 million in 1974-75, largely due to tariff changes consequent upon further alignment of the UK tariff with the Common Customs Tariff of the EEC.

In 1974-75 payment of shipbuilders' relief totalled £5.8 million. Of this, about £0.9 million was paid by the Department of the Environment.

Net receipts of EEC agricultural levies were £25.2 million. This figure was substantially lower than the 1974 Budget estimate largely as a consequence of increases in world agricultural prices relative to Community prices.

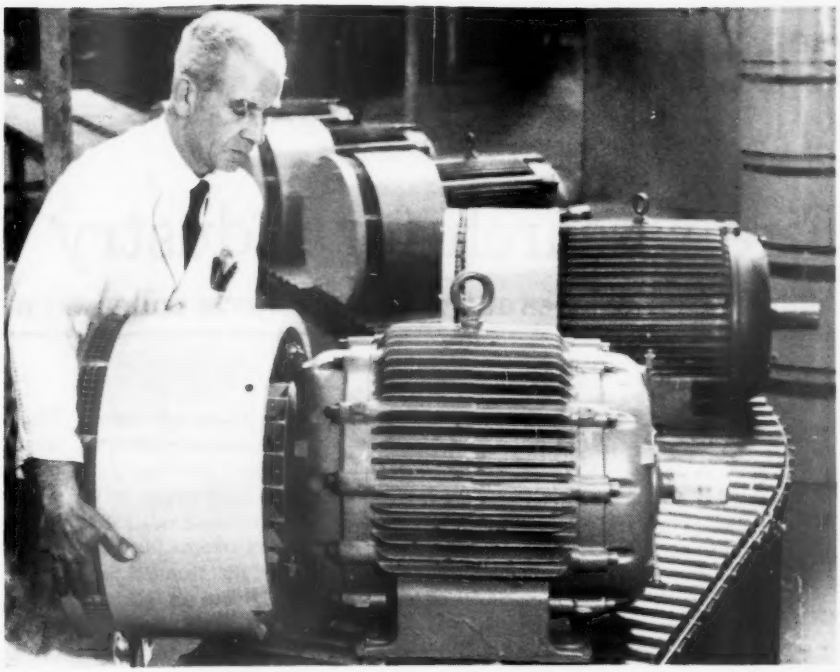
The increase in passenger traffic which has been a feature of recent years was checked in 1974-75. Some 24 million passengers arrived from abroad by sea and air compared with 25 million the previous year.

Arrears of duty, purchase tax and value added tax totalling £740,000 were recovered during the year where values had been underdeclared. A substantial number of attempts to evade payment of the customs charges properly due or the prohibition on the importation of various goods were again detected by officers of the Department stationed at Postal Depots. The number of currency offences detected continued at a high level, partly due to increased checking of passengers. In cases involving smuggling by outward bound passengers 42 persons were prosecuted and fined a total of £61,000. Excess currency amounting to £362,000 was seized during the year.

Action on offences relating to VAT was beginning to build up during the year. Investigation of cases involving evasion of VAT resulted in the collection of £818,000 arrears of tax and compounded settlements.

English Industrial Estates Corporation appointment

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has reappointed K. J. Alford, FRICS, as a member of the English Industrial Estates Corporation.



A Newman electric motor being fitted with an acoustic fan cover. One of a series of options now available from Newman Electric Motors Ltd., Bristol for reducing noise produced by electric motors, the covers are said to cut by half the 'perceived sound level'. The acoustic cover reduces the noise produced by a motor by about 10 dBA. This means that eight or nine acoustically treated motors would be needed to reach the sound level of one, untreated motor of the same size. The acoustic covers replace the conventional fan-covers of TEFC motors, adding about 5 in to the length and 2 in to the diameter. Air enters the motors radially at the fan end, at relatively low speed, and is caused to pass through a sound-absorbent chamber before being discharged over the motor frame for the cooling action. A flame-retardant glass fibre lining is used as the noise 'filter' and this is mechanically fixed in position rather than by adhesive which might be unreliable in certain chemical atmospheres. The covers are fabricated in sheet steel which is weather and rust-proofed.

South Western Gas Consumers' Council appointments

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Mrs. F. M. Allison and Mrs. L. J. Hole as members of the South Western Gas Consumers' Council until 31 August 1977.

Scottish Gas Consumers' Council appointments

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Mr. M. M. Bruce and Miss E. M. Houston as members of the Scottish Gas Consumers' Council until 31 May 1978.

Northern Gas Consumers' Council appointments

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Miss E. Farrelly, Councillor W. Garrett and Councillor Mrs. F. M. Reed as members of the Northern Gas Consumers' Council until 31 March 1978.

South Eastern Gas Consumers' Council appointment

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Mrs. J. E. Lord as a member of the South Eastern Gas Consumers' Council until June 30, 1977.

New British Airports Authority members

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has announced the appointment of two new members of the British Airports Authority.

Mr. William D. H. Gregson, assistant general manager of Ferranti Ltd. in Scotland, is appointed deputy chairman and a part-time member of the Authority with special responsibility for Scottish affairs.

Lord Allen of Fallowfield, general secretary of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers is appointed a part-time member of the Authority.

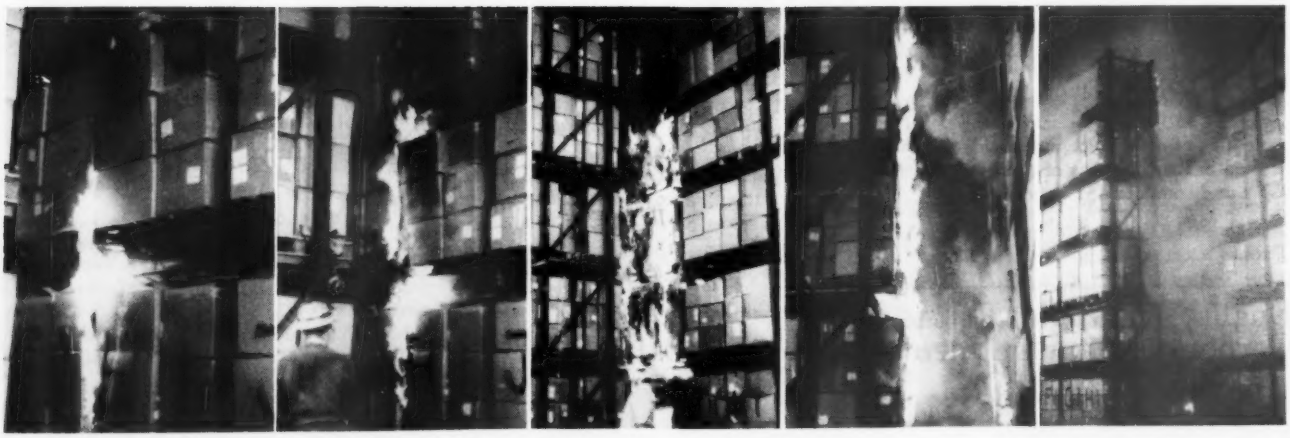
Technology

Fire research for industry

Jennifer Clarke looks at two of the projects underway at the Fire Research Station –

The height of a building, when considering fire, seems to add ramifications to the problem, not just to buildings in general but particularly to warehouses and 'high-rack' storage systems. The very advantages which make high racks attractive, from the practical point of view, render them hazardous from the fire aspect. At the same time their popularity is growing. As a means of storing industrial and commercial goods, warehouses of this design have now become common, both in Europe and in America, where they are now being built over one million square feet in area and up to 120 feet high. There are about 30 automated warehouses of this type in Britain. With economic recovery these numbers could increase rapidly so one of the projects at the Fire Research Station, sponsored by the Home Office and the insurance companies, is to develop the best method by which such fires can be controlled.

Warehouses have always been a bit of a problem – perhaps because of the packaging materials and the fact that they are often unoccupied. In the United Kingdom, direct losses caused by fires in stored goods in warehouses have been estimated, conservatively, at £30 million a year. But the high-rack system itself includes certain features which would exacerbate the blaze. The geometry of the storage is such that narrow chimneys encourage wind velocity so that flames can spread as high as 20 metres in one minute. In other words, the goods are placed in an ideal arrangement for



The Cardington experiments showed that, although the fire could be controlled adequately by sprinklers, in most cases they came into operation after the flame tips had passed. Pictures show the fire (from left to right) at 3 minutes, 4 minutes 5 seconds, 5 minutes 20 seconds, 6 minutes 25 seconds and 8 minutes 45 seconds. This shows that under the conventional system, the goods are likely to be damaged by flames at all levels before the fire is controlled.

controlling fires in warehouses; and the problem of false alarms

burning – in rows and columns with well-aerated surfaces, often enclosed in cardboard boxes. The racking and stacker cranes are vulnerable as they are built in order to be capable of automatic operation and fire can play havoc with unprotected steelwork, which softens and distorts at a relatively low temperature.

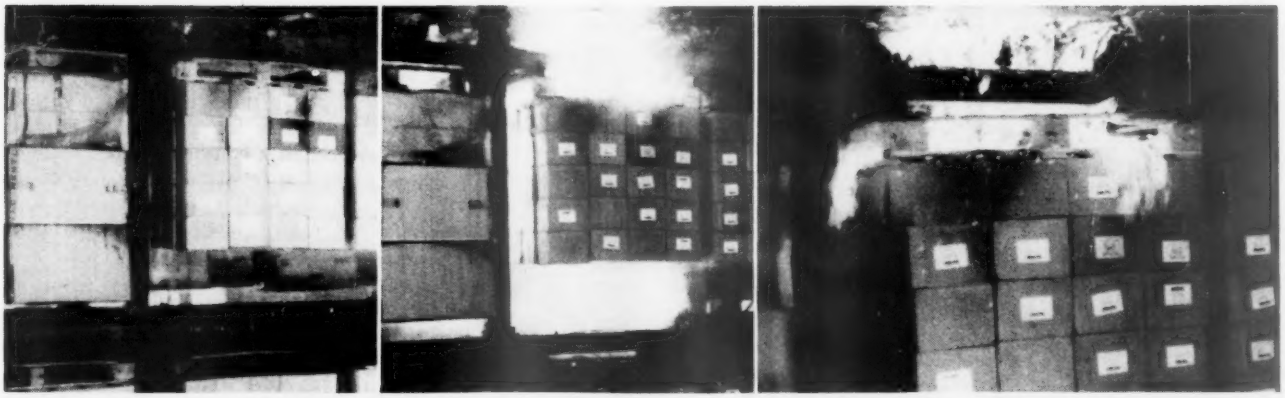
The normal protection for high-racked storages, in Europe and America, depends on a sprinkler system, often used in conjunction with an independent means of fire detection. If the structure were only 20 feet high, ceiling sprinklers alone might be sufficient. According to Roy Young at the Fire Research Station, pallets obstruct the sprinklers, above this height.

The Cardington experiments

To consider methods of fire control, six large-scale tests were carried out on goods stored on pallets in a system of racking at six levels, by the Fire Research Station. The tests involved using a sprinkler system and six different types of fire detector; ionisation chamber smoke detectors, optical smoke detectors, heat-sensitive detectors, infra-red detectors, smoke sampling detectors and laser beam fire detectors. In all the experiments, the sprinklers were designed to start working if the temperature rose to 68 degrees Centigrade, by the breaking of a glass bulb. Results showed that the fires were controlled adequately by the sprinklers, but that the fire could spread upwards through the stack. After the initial growth, the fire accelerated rapidly, the flames taking about the same time to grow from 0 to 5 ft as they did from 5 to 30 ft. The sprinklers, with one exception, operated after the flame tips had passed, and the rate of vertical spread of the fire was so fast that even the topmost layers of goods were engulfed before the ceiling sprinklers came into operation.

In general, the independent fire detectors were not reacting fast enough to enable the fire to be detected and suppressed within the slow first stage of its growth. The individual detector warning was received, on average, only about two minutes before the first sprinkler operated. As a result of these experiments it was decided to design a different type of fire detector and the Fire Research Station commissioned a private firm to make a 'detector wire' to their own specification. The wire was made from a twisted pair of insulated steel conductors with the insulation designed to soften and allow a short circuit, if the temperature reached 68 degrees Centigrade. Currents of hot air, rising vertically can sometimes bypass an instrument which is only a few feet away from the airstream, and one of the advantages of wire, as opposed to individual detector units, is that it can cover the racking at every point.

These ideas, formulated at the Fire Research Station, are now available in the form of a working commercial system and it is hoped to try and persuade the insurance companies to incorporate it into their rules.



With the new zoned sprinkler system developed by the Fire Research Station fires are restricted to the pallet in which they start, regardless of the nature of the goods. This is even true in the case of aerosols, shown (from left to right) after 1 minute 30 seconds, 5 minutes 45 seconds, and 6 minutes 40 seconds.

Fire research for industry continued

Although the cost may be twice that of a conventional system, the likely losses due to fire would be reduced by a factor of about a thousand.

False alarms

The problem with false alarms is not that, by crying wolf wolf they reduce the willingness to respond – rather that, if they continue at their present rate by the year 2000 the Fire Brigade will not be capable of answering them all. The number of false alarms from automatic fire detection equipment is large. Reports from Fire Brigades have shown that they account for 11 out of every 12 calls from automatic systems. As the use of this type of automatic equipment increases the problem is becoming more severe and the Fire Research Station has been studying the reasons for these failures so that the numbers can be reduced.

It is not just a question of preventing false alarms. This could be achieved, quite simply, by using less sensitive equipment. What is being attempted is an analysis of the conditions under which automatic fire detection equipment is being used which might lead to a more precise understanding of the reasons for the faulty signal.

There are three main reasons for false calls; mechanical and electrical faults, such as defective wiring, a surge in the mains; communication faults such as maintenance testing not notified, or a defect in the connection to the Brigade and finally what are referred to as 'ambient conditions.' This is not, as you might think a reference to people ambling about but to the total environment and includes such factors as extraneous heat and smoke, condensation or steam, draughts and high winds. (It does not include the errant spider, who creeps into the light warm refuge of the optical smoke detector and sets off the alarm.)

Heat detectors often respond to a rapid rate of rise in temperature. There are some national standards in Europe in particular which allow the detector to respond in a short time if the rate of increase is rapid – which are not very reliable. If more were known about ambient conditions, it might be shown that, at ceiling level, such rapid rises in temperature can occur quite naturally, and are not uncommon.

In order to establish more precise standards, the Fire Research Station has been developing instrumentation which will be put into typical buildings such as hospitals and factories and which will measure such factors as smoke, ionisation, wind speed and the rate of rise in temperature.

This will give some idea of 'normal' conditions and so help to define more clearly the 'abnormal' situation which should set off the alarm.

The Detection section at the Fire Research Station is not merely preoccupied with false alarms but also with research into the effectiveness of automatic detectors and with test development in general. At present about one-third are engaged in testing automatic detection equipment – either to Fire Offices' Committee (insurance) Specifications or to the relevant British Standard – and in developing test procedures. In the near future, the routine testing work will become the responsibility of a new organisation, the Fire Insurers' Research and Testing Organisation which will occupy part of the site at Borehamwood. The Fire Research Station will of course continue to represent the Government interest in national and international standards and the Detection section will still be concerned with test development and with research on the effectiveness of established tests.

High-sensitivity ionisation smoke detector

A smoke detector that monitors the interaction of ionised air with airborne particles has also been developed. The new system is more sensitive and stable than other smoke detection systems based on this principle. Such a system would be particularly appropriate in controlled environments such as computer installations.

Stamp

One version of this device has recently been incorporated in a fire protection system called 'Stamp', which stands for single tube, automatic multi-point. In a combined smoke detection-fire extinguishant role it is particularly suitable for computer installations, electronic cabinets, rotating machinery, small stores and equipment rooms.

Patent rights relating to the smoke detector and the Stamp system rest with the National Research Development Corporation, who are now negotiating arrangements for manufacture under licence. The Stamp equipment is likely to be available commercially by about the middle of 1976.

Technology News

Nuclear imaging symposium in London

Over 100 nuclear medicine specialists from the United Kingdom, Iraq, Iran, Chile, Germany, Finland, Belgium, Syria and Cyprus attended a symposium and demonstration of the Nuclear Enterprises new Imaging System, Scinticamera 5HR, in London last month. The Scinticamera, which is produced at the company's Edinburgh laboratories, is a valuable diagnostic 'tool' for doctors investigating brain tumours, cancer of the liver and bone, and many other related problems.

The programme included papers from Dr. Keith E. Britton of Middlesex Hospital, London on 'Advances in Radio-Nuclide Abdominal Studies'; and from Dr. J. Krammer of Hereford County Hospital on 'Setting up a routine Nuclear Medicine Department'.

The excellent clinical performance of the Scinticamera 5HR has been combined with a wide range of new accessories. These include a whole body scanning attachment, an advanced analogue data processing system, and a unique marking system which permits anatomical features to be clearly defined. A built-in X-ray film display provides the clinician with a practical system for static and dynamic studies.

Typical clinical examples of nuclear medicine studies were also displayed at the Symposium on Varian Associate 'Varicam' Data Processor. When this facility is combined with the Scinticamera flexibility of diagnostic investigations is considerably increased.

THE seminar on pressure vessels

Technical Help to Exporters (THE), an independent service of the British Standards Institution which is funded in part by the BOTB is organising a one-day seminar on 'Opportunities and Problems of Exporting Pressure Vessels' at the Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham on 25 March. Fees will be £25 for THE members and £30 for non-members.

The potential export market for British pressure vessels is excellent but it has its own problems, and a number of highly qualified speakers from Europe and the USA have been invited to address the seminar to help to clarify what has become a complex situation.

The seminar will illustrate the current differences in practices between EEC members; how harmonisation will work; draw comparisons between trends in practices in the EEC, Scandinavia and the USA; show the best way to obtain approval for products; set out national approval procedures, and identify problems and how to avoid them.

For further information about the seminar, contact Les Miles, Head of Promotion Services, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ, tel (0442) 3111.

Noise control and its effect on industry

The effect that noise control measures will have on industry will be the subject of discussion at a three-day seminar to take place at the Department of Industry's National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow on Tuesday 27 January, Wednesday 28 January, and Thursday 29 January 1976.

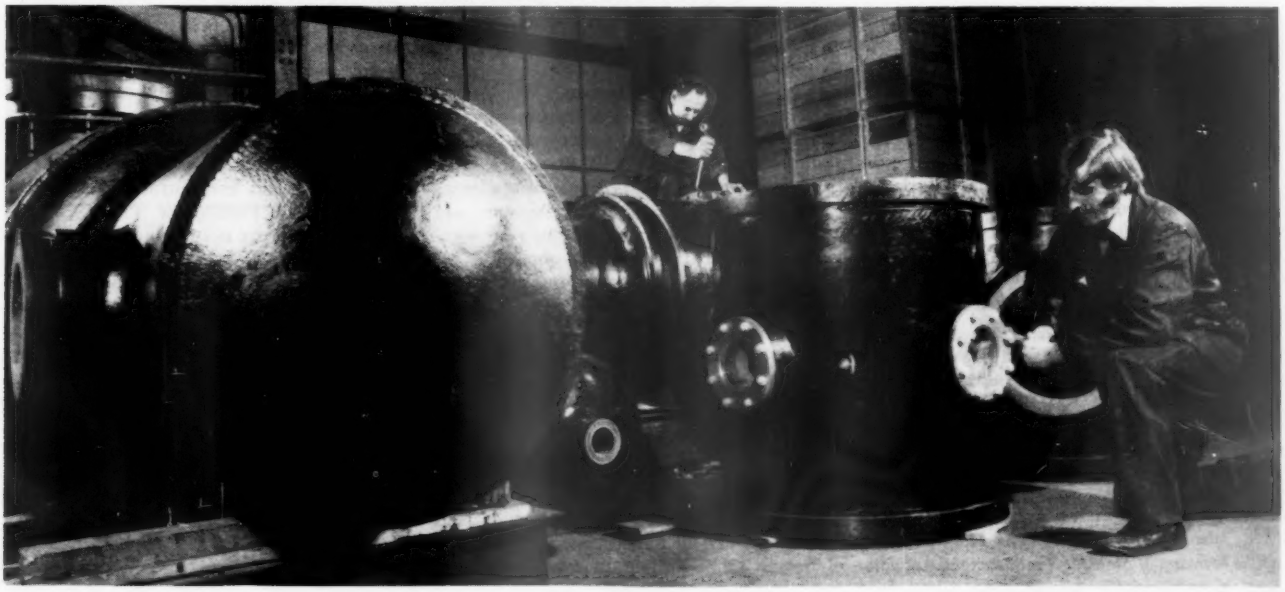
The seminar takes place against the background of Britain's Common Market membership. Closer links with Western European countries mean that British industry must be able to comply with all relevant requirements. More firms need to ensure that their products meet noise and vibration specifications currently being enforced.

Mr. D. H. Mallinson, Director, NEL is expected to welcome delegates – mainly from the engineering industry – on the morning of Tuesday, 27 January. Speakers during the three days will be NEL scientists, officials from other Government Departments, industry and universities. Discussions will emphasise noise and vibration problems in different engineering aspects.

Atomic Energy Authority appointment

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority have appointed Dr. L. E. J. Roberts, formerly Programme Director of Energy Projects in the Research Group, Director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, with effect from 16 December 1975. He succeeds, in that capacity, Dr. Walter Marshall who, as announced by the Department of Energy, is becoming a Deputy Chairman of the Authority with special responsibility for scientific and technical policy.

Assembling a separator and column sections for a titanium dioxide plant at the Greenhithe works of A.P.V. Kestner Ltd. The plant will be despatched to Spain and is manufactured throughout in Kestner's own thermosetting plastic 'Keebush'. The section when assembled will operate under corrosive and acidic conditions at temperatures well above 100°C.



Parliament

Monday, 15 December

UK trade

Mr. Peter Viggers (Gosport) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he was satisfied with the external trading record of British industry.

'No Sir,' said Mr. Shore 'Although the UK increased its share of trade in manufactures during the first half of this year, we have a continuing balance of payments deficit. It is important that the fullest advantage is taken of the upturn in world trade as it develops.'

Open trading system

Mr. Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what international discussions he proposes to have regarding the achievement of the Rambouillet commitment to the maintenance of an open trading system.

Mr. Shore replied: 'We shall continue to play a constructive part in the international organisations concerned with trade and we shall in particular work for substantial measures of liberalisation in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations.'

Duty-free import quotas

Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would seek to renegotiate the agreements between the UK and its former EFTA partners in respect of duty-free import quotas.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'No Sir. The present system has been in effective operation for only two years. It is intended to balance the interests of UK manufacturers and the needs of industrial users. Although the recession in the industry is greater than we expected in 1972 the arrangements still look generally right.'

Import controls

Mr. John Biffen (Owsestry) questioned the Secretary of State for Trade about representations received, and answers given in respect of the Government's policy on import controls.

'I have received many representations both about the Government's policy on import controls generally and about the possibility of controls on particular goods,' answered Mr. Shore. 'In reply, I have explained the Government's policy in the same terms as I have explained it on various occasions to the House.'

Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby) asked how many requests had been received since 1 January 1975 for the introduction of selective import controls on textiles.

'About 265,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Of these, about 225 have been requests for general controls on textiles and clothing imports, while about 40 have related to particular products.'

ECGD cost escalation scheme

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade was satisfied with the working of the Cost Escalation Insurance Scheme.

Mr. Shore said: 'The Scheme has assisted in the successful negotiation of exports totalling nearly £130 million, and a large volume of potential business is at various stages of negotiation. But I am well aware of industry's views on the need for changes in the present arrangements and as a matter of urgency I am considering them again carefully in the light of our experience to date and of all other relevant factors, including cost.'

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked if the Department of Trade collects information about cost escalation insurance schemes operated by other members of the EEC; and how they compare with the scheme.

'Yes, Sir,' said Mr. Deakins. 'The French Government has been operating such a scheme for many years. I understand that the Italian Scheme is currently in suspense. In this complex field precise comparisons between different national systems are difficult. But in general the French arrangements are more liberal than ours. We are taking this into account in reviewing our Scheme, as well as all other pertinent factors, including cost.'

Mr. John Davies (Knutsford) asked in how many cases, and to what aggregate value, the ECGD has insured exporters against a higher than expected rate of inflation since the announcement of this facility.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'As my Rt. Hon. Friend told the House earlier today in reply to a question by the Hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling, this facility has already assisted in the successful negotiation of nearly £130 million of export business. This relates to three signed contracts and two letters of intent. Many other contracts involving large amounts are being actively considered.'

Royal Commission on the Press

Mr. Jonathan Aitken (Thanet East) asked when the Secretary of State for Trade expects to receive the study on the immediate problems of the newspaper industry from the Royal Commission on the Press.

Mr. Shore told him that the Royal Commission was aiming to provide the report by the end of January 1976.

Chrome

Mr. Patrick Wall (Haltemprice) asked what are the main sources of the UK's chrome imports; the respective price per ton; and for a comparison with the price of Rhodesian chrome.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'During January to October 1975 the main countries supplying chrome ores and concentrates were South Africa and the Philippines. Prices for particular qualities are not readily available, but the average cif values per metric ton derived from the overseas trade statistics during the above period were £24.6 and £33.9, respectively; these figures are not true prices as they are influenced by differences in grade, transport costs and certain other factors. Price information for Rhodesia is not available.'

Trade with EEC

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked what percentage of the imports and exports, respectively, for the first nine months of the years 1974 and 1975, were with the EEC.

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Neil Carmichael

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection:
Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Mr. Shore answered: 'On a balance of payments basis, the proportion of our total imports arriving from the rest of the EEC was 35 per cent in the first nine months of 1974 and 37 per cent in the first nine months of 1975. Similar figures for exports are 34 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively.'

Mr. Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North) and Mr. Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) asked about the size of the UK's trade deficit with countries of the EEC.

Mr. Shore replied: 'In the first nine months of 1975 the United Kingdom's visible trade deficit on a balance of payments basis with the other members of the EEC was £1,759 million. In the same period, the visible trade deficit with all countries was £2,523 million, and the current account deficit was £1,359 million.'

Trade with Eastern Europe

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked for the latest figures available for trade between Great Britain and the USSR and other Eastern European countries; and asked what additional steps are being taken to stimulate this trade.

Mr. Shore said: 'In the first 10 months of this year our exports to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were £481 million, an increase of 25 per cent compared to the same period of 1974. We are actively promoting further expansion in our trade with these countries.'

Mrs. Renee Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked what changes have taken place in Anglo-Soviet trade as a result of the agreement signed after the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow earlier in the year; and which industries are likely to benefit.

'Our exports to the Soviet Union have increased in value by almost 100 per cent this year compared with last year,' said Mr. Shore. 'My discussions with the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade last week confirmed that there are good prospects for British companies in a wide range of industries including in particular the chemical, petrochemical and agrochemical industries and the textile machinery industry.'

Mr. Iain Sproat (Aberdeen South) asked what was the value of exports to, and imports from, the USSR over the first nine months of 1975; and what percentage increase or decrease these show over the same period last year.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

	Exports	Imports
Jan.-Sept. 1975	£155 million (fob)	£277 million (cif)
Percentage change from Jan.-Sept. 1974	+111	−3.3

Trade with Japan

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) inquired about the balance of payments position on UK trade with Japan.

Mr. Shore answered: 'In the first 11 months of this year our "crude" trade deficit with Japan has been £325 million compared with a deficit of £251 million for the whole of 1974.

'Very rough estimates of our balance of invisible transactions with Japan, which include some elements of the crude balance such as freight and insurance, indicate that there was a UK surplus of some £200 million in 1974. Figures for 1975 are not available. Bilateral estimates of this kind are difficult to compile and need to be interpreted with considerable care.'

Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Democracy

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked for a list of the people and organisations consulted by the Department of Trade before members of the Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Democracy were appointed.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that the CBI and the TUC were among those consulted, and the Secretary of State also received advice and suggestions as to the membership from very many other interested organisations and individuals.

Answering a further question from Mr. Smith, Mr. Clinton Davis said that over 50 nominations were received from interested organisations and individuals. In addition, very many other names were considered in the course of determining the composition of the Committee.

The Secretary of State's aim was to appoint to the Committee people who would bring together a wide range of relevant knowledge and experience and who would each make a valuable personal contribution to its work. He also sought to ensure that there was a reasonable balance of opinion represented on the Committee.

Motor insurance

Mr. Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would introduce legislation to make insurance companies reduce their car insurance premiums when the value of a vehicle is reduced.

'No,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Although formerly it was the practice, most car insurance premiums are not now based on the value of the car. That value is relevant only to the minority of claims which amount to a total loss of the vehicle.'

Nation Life

Mr. Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked if the total of £1,482,000 charged in fees and costs on Nation Life's liquidation was considered fair and reasonable.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The total sum mentioned relates to very approximate estimates put forward by the liquidator during Court proceedings in July 1975 and reserved by Order of Court in respect of legal costs, remuneration and fees. The amount eventually found to be due cannot at present be foreseen.'

Sir John Hall (Wycombe) asked what had been the departmental costs incurred in relation to the liquidation of Nation Life; and the total fees to be charged by the Department of Trade.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The fees becoming due to the Department from time to time under the appropriate Fees Orders are charged as the work progresses. Their total amount will not be known until the Liquidator has completed realisations of assets and distributions to those entitled.

'Total fees charged to date are about £196,000. The total costs incurred by the Department in relation to Nation Life cannot be ascertained without undue expenditure but the results of the Insolvency Service operations are presented to Parliament in the Bankruptcy Annual General Reports.'

Mr. Michael Spicer (South Worcestershire) inquired about the expedition of payments to Nation Life's creditors.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'We continue to keep in touch with the liquidator. An interim distribution of 41.5p in the £ was paid to the creditors on 30 October.

'The remaining assets will not be so readily realisable and the liquidator is unable, at present, to indicate when he will be in a position to make a further distribution. My Department will give him such assistance as they properly can.'

Blanes Ltd. and Bernard Russell Ltd.

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked what was the cost of the investigations under Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948 into Blanes Ltd. and Bernard Russell Ltd.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that the fees, costs and expenses of the two inspectors conducting these investigations totalled £66,170.

Golden Chemical Products Ltd.

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked if representations would be made either at court or to the adjudicating officer for the winding-up order on Golden Chemical Products Ltd. about the disbursements of the trust fund which this company set up.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The winding-up petition is at present before the Court and it would not be proper for me to comment on this matter. If a winding-up order is made, the Official Receiver will become the provisional liquidator of the company and he has a duty to investigate the affairs of the company and the matter referred to. The Official Receiver is an officer of the Court, and as such is responsible to the Court.'

Protection against bankrupts

Mr. Leslie Spriggs (St. Helens) asked, whether in the light of information provided, the Secretary of State would take action to protect traders against bankrupts and those who choose to go into liquidation.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The Question relates to a letter from the Hon. Member about a company which I understand has been in receivership and is now in voluntary liquidation. Inquiries are being made and my Rt. Hon. Friend will reply further to the Hon. Member as soon as possible.

'In the wider context, the Insolvency Bill at present before Parliament seeks powers to exclude from directorship persons who have been directors of two or more companies which have gone into liquidation within the last five years.'

Power station/desalination plant at Qatar

Mr. Arthur Palmer (Bristol North East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'Why his Department was unable to give financial support to British engineering companies and the Central Electricity Generating Board in a joint bid to obtain a £200 million contract for the construction of a power station/desalination plant at Qatar, and what steps he is taking to prevent the loss of such opportunities in the future?'

Mr. Deakins replied: 'A consortium could not be formed which was capable of accepting all the responsibilities of the contract. My Department is actively discussing with industry the question of leadership of a British consortium for such projects so that Britain can benefit from the large and valuable export opportunities which exist.'

Parliament continued

Staff

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, to what legislative or policy factors he attributes the increase in non-industrial staff in his Department from 7,440 on 1 July 1975 to 7,649 on 1 October.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The increase of 209 results mainly from the need to prepare for the transfer of the Companies Registration Office to Cardiff, and to undertake extra work in the Insolvency Service and on surveillance licensing of imports of textiles.'

Mr. Latham also asked what legislative or policy factors is attributed to the increase in non-industrial staff in the Export Credits Guarantee Department from 1,642 on 1 March 1974 to 1,800 on 1 July 1975 and then to 1,851 on 1 October 1975.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The increase is mainly due to substantial growth in ECGD's workload coupled with improved recruitment: liabilities assumed by the Department grew from just under £8,000 million at 1 April 1974 to nearly £11,000 million at 1 July 1975. It is also due to the development of new facilities, such as cost escalation insurance introduced under the Export Guarantees (Amendment) Act 1975, and the measures announced in the House on 20 February and 15 April relating to performance bonds and preshipment finance.'

Imported paper and board

Mr. Peter Bottomley (Woolwich West) asked what applications in respect of the dumping of paper and board products have been received in the last month.

'My Department has received no formal applications for action against either dumped or subsidised paper and board products,' said Mr. Deakins.

Mr. David Crouch (Canterbury) asked for information concerning subsidies in respect of the export to the UK of paper and board products from Spanish mills, and Mr. Roger Sims (Bromley, Chislehurst) asked about the dumping of paper and board products from Poland.

Mr. Deakins said: 'As I explained in answer to an earlier question, my Department has received no formal applications for action against dumped or subsidised paper and board products, from any country. My officials and those of the Department of Industry have, however, had exploratory talks with representatives of the industry about the problem of such low-cost imports. These talks covered the possibility that imports from a number of sources may be either dumped or subsidised. If the industry decided to put in a formal application for either anti-dumping or countervailing action my Department will be happy to consider it. At that stage they would naturally discuss with applicants the information needed and the best ways of getting it.'

Television manufacturers

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked what is being done to assist firms manufacturing television sets.

'Assistance will continue to be available for our growing exports of televisions,' said Mr. Shore. 'I am also keeping a close watch on imports; and I have announced my intention of introducing surveillance licensing on imports of colour television sets and receivers.'

Motor vehicle exports and imports

Mr. Les Huckfield (Nuneaton) asked for a further statement on motor vehicle exports and imports.

Mr. Shore said: 'In the first 11 months of this year, import penetration of the United Kingdom car market was 33.4 per cent compared with 27.1 per cent in the corresponding period in 1974. During January-November 1975 exports of passenger motor cars was £451.3 million compared with imports of £473.6 million. This compared with the corresponding period of 1974 of exports of £355.4 million and imports of £291.9 million. The composition of our car imports has changed in recent months with the Japanese proportion falling and others rising.'

Motor cycles

Mr. John Pardoe (North Cornwall) asked for an estimate of the UK share of the world trade in motor cycles in 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, and in the latest available year.

Mr. Deakins answered that the UK share of OECD countries exports of motor cycles (SITC 732.91) was 8.6 per cent in 1965, 6.6 per cent in 1970 and 3.9 per cent in 1973. Figures for earlier and later years are not available.

Tourism

Mr. Peter Blaker (Blackpool South) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade is satisfied with the arrangements for encouraging tourism in the different areas of the UK.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Within the inevitable constraints on overall resources it is my concern to ensure that tourist potential in all parts of the country shall receive proper encouragement and I believe present arrangements which are based on the Statutory Boards can secure this.'

Patent Law

Mr. Michael English (Nottingham West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'Whether he proposes this session to bring in a measure to reform United Kingdom Patent Law on the lines proposed in Command Paper No. 6000, or whether he will bring in during the session a short Bill which would enable Her Majesty's Government to ratify pending international patent conventions by the promised dates?'

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'I am aware that ratification by the United Kingdom of the European Patent Convention at the end of 1976 is important for British interests and my Rt. Hon. Friend intends to introduce a comparatively short Bill to enable this as soon as circumstances permit. Further legislation will be necessary to enact the White Paper proposals for patent law reform and to permit ratification of the Patent Co-operation Treaty and of the Community Patent Convention which is being signed in Luxembourg today. Due to pressure of Parliamentary business it will not be possible to introduce this more comprehensive legislation during the present session.'

Concorde

Mr. Toby Jessel (Twickenham) asked how many complaints have been received about noise from Concorde.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: '2,832 complaints have been received either during or since the recent endurance flying programme. This figure includes both complaints received by the Department direct and those received first by the British Airports Authority and by British Airways.'

Air fares

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade, would seek additional powers to dissuade airlines and others from discounting schedule fares on airline tickets.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The recent court actions have demonstrated that the Government has strong powers to enforce approved fares and rates of commission. Efforts are being made by the travel trade and airlines to stamp out illegal discounting. We have, however, made it plain that if such efforts are not successful we intend to use these powers. I can assure the Hon. Member that if we find that additional powers are required we shall have no hesitation in seeking the authority of Parliament to obtain them.'

Civil Aviation Policy

Questions were asked by Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings) and Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) on the White Paper on Civil Aviation Policy.

Mr. Shore said: 'I expect to publish this White Paper early next year.'

Airfield strategy

Mr. Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked when the consultation on the consultative document, Airfield Strategy for Great Britain, Part I The London Area, would be completed.

Mr. Shore replied: 'It is essential that adequate time is allowed for all interested organisations to put their views, and I envisage that the consultations will last about six months.'

Mr. Peter Hordern (Horsham and Crawley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what discussions he has had in connection with the discussion paper.

Mr. Shore replied: 'Copies of the consultation document, which was published on 20 November, have been sent to all County and District Councils in the South East, London Borough Councils, Economic Planning Councils, major amenity groups and other organisations including representatives of both sides of industry, inviting them to participate in the consultations. There have not yet been any substantive discussions on the document.'

Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest) asked for an assurance that the strategy would not include any extension of the area at present occupied by Stansted Airport.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'I cannot anticipate the consultations with local authorities and others, but none of the developments at Stansted referred to in the consultation document published by my Department on 20 November would require an extension of the present airport boundaries.'

Mr. Anthony Steen (Liverpool, Wavertree) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what evidence had been invited, and from whom, in order to assess the extent of the demand by the private sector and the

public industrial sector for Ringway and Liverpool Speke Airports.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'Following the abandonment of the Maplin Airport project, local authorities and other organisations with an interest in Liverpool and Manchester airports were invited to comment on the way in which future United Kingdom air traffic should be handled. Further advice and comment will be invited on the basis of the Consultation Document on Regional Airports to be published early in 1976.'

Oil pollution

Mr. Edwin Wainwright (Dearne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'What has been the cost to the Government of combating oil pollution from tankers during each of the past five years; and what action he intends to take to ensure that the fighting of oil pollution in the future will be more efficient and less costly?'

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The following figures on my Department's expenditure on dealing with actual spills from tankers include net expenditure after claims on tanker owners: financial year 1970/71, gross £461,500 – net £85,400; 1971/72 gross £55,900 – net £20,300; 1973/74 gross £24,900 – net £1,000. There was no such expenditure in the other two years. These figures do not include expenditure on setting up, equipping and maintaining the clearance organisation.

'Measures to improve its effectiveness are continually reviewed, and we are also examining carefully the action taken in connection with the recent oil spillage in the Dover Strait in order to determine the lessons to be learned.'

Price controls

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what plans she has for introducing a system of maximum prices for a wide range of consumer goods.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'Maximum prices and retail margins of bread, butter, cheese, tea and flour are now controlled under the Prices Acts 1974 and 1975. The price of milk is also subject to statutory control. My Rt. Hon. Friend has no plans to introduce maximum prices on any further goods. However, she hopes to obtain the agreement of industry to restrain prices voluntarily on a wide range of consumer goods within a 5 per cent limit over a period of six months, starting early in the New Year.'

Petrol prices

Mr. Roy Hughes (Newport) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would insist on the price per gallon of petrol being prominently displayed on each service filling station throughout the United Kingdom.

'I doubt whether a simple requirement to indicate prices would effectively overcome many of the complaints about the ways in which petrol prices are being expressed,' said Mr. Williams. 'The Director General of Fair Trading is currently considering responses to his recent consultative document on bargain offer claims and I would prefer to await his recommendations before deciding on the appropriate course of action.'

Study of the footwear industry

Questions were asked by Mr. Peter Walker (Worcester) on the anticipated cost of the study being made into the footwear industry; and when it is expected that the study will be completed.

'It is estimated that the Study, which should be completed by next summer, will cost £120,000,' said Mr. Carmichael.

Transfer of staff to Wales

Mr. Michael Latham asked how many staff were transferred from the Department of Industry to the Welsh Office in 1975, following the transfer of responsibility for industry in Wales; and whether the authorised establishment of the Department has been reduced by the same amount.

Mr. Kaufman answered: '118 staff were transferred to the Welsh Office on 1 July 1975 and the authorised establishment of my Department was reduced by that amount.'

Imports of steel into the EEC

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what agreement has been reached by the EEC Commission and Japan and Spain, respectively, concerning imports of steel (including stainless steel) into the European Community; and how such agreements would affect the UK market for steel.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'I am advised that there have been informal exchanges between the European Commission and Japan and Spain designed to encourage self restraint in the volume of their exports to the European Community. Any progress in this direction will benefit the UK steel industry.'

BSC plants at Hunterston

Mr. David Lambie (Central Ayrshire) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would set up an inquiry to investigate the delay in starting the construction of the British Steel Corporation direct reduction plants at Hunterston, Ayrshire.

'Such an inquiry is unnecessary,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'BSC's proposal to construct two direct reduction plants at Hunterston was endorsed in the Parliamentary statement on Scottish closures which my Rt. Hon. Friend made on 6 August. The Corporation are now well advanced in their preparations for construction work. Planning approval for the project is a matter for my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland.'

Anglesey Aluminium Co.

Mr. Arthur Palmer (Bristol North East) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would take steps to recover in whole or part the £43 million of public money granted in 1967 to the Anglesey Aluminium Co. for the production of aluminium, 'since the company has not to date achieved such production profitably'.

Mr. Carmichael answered: 'No. A loan of £33 million was made to Anglesey Aluminium Metal Ltd. as from 1968 under the provisions of the Industrial Expansion Act 1968. This loan is being repaid with interest in accordance with the terms of the loan agreement. The company received building grants and also investment grants for plant and machinery under the Industrial Development Act 1966. The investment grants were made subject to certain conditions which applied for a period of three years. This period has now expired. I am aware that the company is actively engaged in improving the profitability of its operations.'

Tinplate production

Mr. Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) asked what was the total UK tinplate production in 1974; and what proportion of this was produced in Wales.

Mr. Carmichael said (quoting from the *Annual Statistics of the Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau*, Table 48), that total deliveries of tinplate from United Kingdom production in 1974 amounted to 1,164 thousand tonnes, all produced in Wales.

Washing machines

Mr. Wigley wanted to know the number of washing machines produced and sold, respectively, in the UK in 1974; indicating the main countries of origin, and the proportions of the balance of imports.

Mr. Carmichael gave the information as follows:

Washing machines produced in the United Kingdom, 1974	1,010,000	
Washing machines sold in the United Kingdom, 1974 (including imports)	1,156,000	
Source of imported washing machines, 1974:		
Italy	299,000	81.9%
France	23,000	6.3%
West Germany	22,000	6.0%
Spain	16,000	4.4%
USA	2,000	0.6%
Netherlands	2,000	0.6%
All others	1,000	0.2%
Total	365,000	100.0

Source: Business Monitor.

Shipbuilding and shiprepairing industries

Mr. Wigley asked what was the value, respectively, of the shipbuilding and shiprepairing industries to the economy of the UK last year; and what proportion of these figures arose from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England, respectively.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The net output of the shipbuilding, shiprepairing and marine engineering industry is estimated as £438 million in 1973, the latest period for which information is available. The latest regional analysis refers to 1972 and in that year three quarters of net output was produced in England and one fifth in Scotland. Separate figures for Wales and Northern Ireland cannot be given for reasons of confidentiality.' (Source: *Annual Census of Production, 1972 and 1973.*)

Ferrous foundries

Mr. John Pardoe (North Cornwall) asked how many foundries and what proportion of the total foundries in the UK employ less than 100 employees.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'On 31 August 1974, 807 or 73 per cent of the total (ferrous and non-ferrous) employed fewer than 100 employees.'

Mr. Pardoe also asked what proportion of the total foundries in the UK would be able to raise sufficient funds for investment to enable them to qualify for help under the aid scheme for ferrous foundries.

'The information requested is not available,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'The ferrous foundry industry has shown great interest in the scheme and the Department has already received over 50 formal applications for assistance.'

British Aerospace and British Shipbuilders

Mr. Harry Lamborn (Southwark, Peckham) asked for a statement about appointments to the organising committees for British Aerospace and British Shipbuilders.

Mr. Varley's reply was published in *Trade and Industry* of 19 December, page 756.

Parliament continued

Tuesday, 16 December

Foreign-owned companies in UK

Mr. Christopher Tugendhat (The City of London and Westminster South) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what proportion of the total investment in plant and machinery of manufacturing industry was undertaken by the subsidiaries of United States' owned companies and by the subsidiaries of foreign owned companies, respectively, and what were the values of those investments for the latest available periods.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The information available relates to total net capital expenditure, that is capital expenditure on new building work, land and existing buildings, and vehicles as well as plant and machinery *less* amounts received for disposal of land and existing buildings, plant, machinery and vehicles. The latest available figures are provisional estimates for 1971, taken from the Census of Production for that year:

NET CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1971

	£ million	As a percentage of total
United States' controlled enterprises	245	11.1
All overseas controlled enterprises	327	14.8
All enterprises	2,203	100.0

Mr. Tugendhat also wanted to know the proportion of British imports and exports accounted for by the internal transactions of United States' owned multinational groups and of foreign owned multinational groups.

Mr. Deakins replied that information on exports to related concerns overseas by United States controlled and other foreign controlled enterprises was published in Table 44 of the Business Monitor M4, Overseas Transactions 1973. Related concerns comprise the overseas subsidiaries, branches and associates of UK enterprises. No information is available on imports from related concerns overseas.

Exports to Sudan

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked what steps are being taken to assist British exporters to the Sudan to match the credits of between five and seven years being granted by several foreign countries in aid of their own exporters.

'The normal facilities of the Export Credits Guarantee Department are available for exports to the Sudan,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Support for credit terms exceeding five years may be considered for projects of an appropriate size and nature, or to match commercial credit officially supported by a competing country.'

Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Democracy

Mr. J. M. Craigen (Glasgow, Maryhill) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade had considered the appointment of employees for inclusion in the membership of the Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Democracy, including shop stewards and foremen or supervisors.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend's aim was to appoint a small Committee which would be able to produce a speedy but thorough report. It was therefore necessary that all its members should be able to contribute relevant personal knowledge over a wide range and the members selected include a number who are closely acquainted with the areas of industry my Hon. Friend has in mind. It will of course be open to all interested parties to submit evidence to the Committee and I hope that they will do so.'

Travel agents

Mr. Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'Whether he is satisfied that the scheme recently announced by the Association of British Travel Agents for dealing with booking moneys still held by travel agents at the same time of the collapse of the Court Line companies, Clarksons Holidays Ltd. and Halcyon Holidays Ltd., will adequately safeguard the customers concerned?'

Mr. Deakins replied: 'This is a matter for the liquidators and the travel agents, since it offers the prospect that many holidaymakers may be repaid much sooner than would otherwise be possible, given the complex situation with which the liquidators were faced, I certainly hope that it will prove successful. Success, however, depends primarily on the full co-operation of the travel agents concerned.

'In the meantime, it is important that any disappointed Court Line customers who have not yet been compensated should take care to preserve any evidence of their payments.'

Carriage by air

Mr. Neville Sandelson (Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington) asked if Command Paper No. 4284, Command Paper No. 2354 and Command Paper No. 3356 of the Conventions for Carriage by Air would be made available to the public.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The Command Papers in question, which contain the texts of the Warsaw Convention, the Guadelajara Convention and The Hague Protocol, are now out of print. I understand that Her Majesty's Stationery Office can provide photo-copies on request.

'A consolidated text of the Warsaw Convention as amended at The Hague and a text of the Guadelajara Convention may be found respectively in the Carrige by Air Act 1961, and the Carriage by Air (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1962.'

Tayside Schools Technical Centre

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked for a statement about the proposed closure of the Tayside Schools Technical Centre.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'In conjunction with local education authorities and industry, my Department supported the setting up of the Tayside Schools Technology Centre, with a three year grant, which ends on 31 December 1975. This was to enable the Centre to develop local interests in, and financial support for, the continuation of its activities. I understand that the Governing Board, after a number of unsuccessful appeals to local education authorities and industry for financial support, has reluctantly decided to recommend its closure from 1 February 1976.'

Skelmersdale New Town

Mr. Michael McGuire (Ince) asked for a list of the various Government grant schemes available to help bring employment to Skelmerdale New Town and to the rest of the Ince constituency.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'Skelmersdale New Town has Special Development Area status which means that, in addition to national schemes to encourage investment, the full range of regional incentives is available to firms setting up or expanding there. These include Regional Development Grants at 22 per cent for new buildings and plant and machinery for qualifying industries; selective financial assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972; the Regional Employment Premium; and Government Factories for sale or rent with, in some cases, rent-free periods.

'The remainder of the Ince constituency is in an Intermediate Area where the main regional incentives available for new projects are Regional Development Grants at 20 per cent for new buildings; selective financial assistance under Section 7 of the 1972 Industry Act; and Government Factories.'

Postal deliveries

Mr. Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked the total number of persons currently employed in the Post Office Corporation; and what proportion of this number is involved in the collection, sorting and delivering of mail.

Mr. MacKenzie said that on 30 September 1975 (the latest date for which figures are available) the total number of employees was 433,596 of which about 30 per cent were involved in the collection, sorting and delivering of mail.

Mr. Marshall also asked for an estimate of the number of first class letters that fail to arrive within 24 hours of posting and of the number of second class letters that fail to arrive within 48 hours of posting.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'I am advised by the Post Office that figures for November show that 91.3 per cent of first class mail was delivered on the next working day after posting and 88.6 per cent of second class mail was delivered on the second working day after posting. If only because of factors outside the Post Office's control 100 per cent achievement is impossible.'

Post Office contracts

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would issue a general direction to the Post Office to cease offering five year fixed price contracts.

'No,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'This is a matter for the Post Office's judgment and I would not regard a direction as appropriate. But I am informed that the Post Office is discontinuing such contracts for wideband circuits.'

Company registration by charitable bodies

Mr. A. G. F. Hall-Davis (Morecambe and Lonsdale) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would reduce to £5 the company registration fee payable by charitable bodies.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'I assume that the Hon. Member is referring to the annual fee payable to the Registrar of Companies. I have received a number of representations on this subject and I have considered carefully

whether to introduce a reduced fee for charitable bodies. I have concluded that in the present state of the law relating to charities this would result in indefensible anomalies. Two committees – an Education, Arts and Home Office Sub-Committee of the Select Committee on Expenditure and an unofficial committee set up by the National Council of Social Service, headed by Lord Goodman – are currently considering a wide range of questions relating to charities. I will review the situation when conclusions have been reached on their reports.'

Insurance broking

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what recent discussions he has had with insurance broking organisations about self-regulation and control of sales forces, what representations he has recently received from insurance broking organisations regarding self-regulation of brokers, and when he expects to make a statement on the progress being made by insurance broking organisations on self-regulation and control of salesmen.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'In May My Rt. Hon. Friend asked the four principal insurance brokers' organisations to consider collectively what criteria might be applied in any regulation of insurance brokers and to submit specific proposals. They set up a joint working party with Mr. Francis Perkins as chairman and we received the report last week. This contains outline proposals for the future identification and supervision of insurance brokers. I am grateful to Mr. Perkins and his working party for their examination of this difficult subject. We are studying the report which we shall need to discuss with them before deciding how best to consult the insurers, consumer interests and others likely to be affected by the proposals.'

Mr. McCrindle also asked about representations since 1 November from insurance brokers organisations on the subject of the Policyholders Protection Act.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'I have received representations from two insurance brokers' organisations about the effects of the Act's provisions for levies on intermediaries.'

Licence to slaughter

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would refer the matter of the increase in the fee for a licence to slaughter issued by a local authority, from 5p to £4 (for a renewal), and from 10p to £6 (for a new licence) to the Price Commission.

'We have no power to do so,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'Under the Counter-Inflation Act 1973 questions referred to the Price Commission must relate to prices or charges for goods or services. The fee in question is not a charge for a service and under the Local Government Act 1974 is for each individual local authority to determine.'

Metrication

Sir John Eden (Bournemouth West) asked if the changeover from imperial to metric measures would have any appreciable effect on the price per unit of prescribed quantity products.

Mr. Williams answered: 'I do not expect any increases solely as a result of metrication in the unit price – ie the price per pound or per kilogram – of such products. In general metric packs of prescribed quantity products will be about 10 per cent larger than the corresponding imperial packs and any price increases, which are of course subject to the overall controls contained in the Price Code, will have to reflect this. A large manufacturer of breakfast cereals has recently introduced such metric packs and has succeeded in reducing his unit price by 3-4 per cent.'

Investment relief

Mr. Michael Ward (Peterborough) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to give details of her proposals to ensure that investment relief continues to be available under the Price Code between April and July 1976.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'I have today issued a consultative document in accordance with the statutory requirement to consult interested parties before making an order to amend the Price Code. The consultative document is available in the Vote Office of the House of Commons.' (*See also page 7.*)

Food price surveys

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, how many local authorities have taken up her department's scheme to run and publish weekly food price surveys.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'Seventy-eight authorities have applied, some provisionally. Grants to 54 local authorities and five other bodies have already been approved, covering surveys in 183 shopping centres.'

Wednesday, 17 December

EEC Regional Development Fund

Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire) asked what would be the estimated value of the EEC Regional Development Fund in 1976; and how much of this is expected to be spent in Scotland.

'The UK's share of the Fund in 1976 will be some £58 million,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'I cannot anticipate at this stage which projects in Scotland will be included among the various UK applications to be submitted to the Fund during the course of 1976.' (*See also page 34.*)

British Leyland

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) asked on what date British Leyland came into public ownership.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The Scheme of Arrangements became effective on 11 August 1975 and the Government acquired 78 per cent of the equity in British Leyland Ltd. with effect from that date.'

Mr. Stanley asked for a list of each of the payments from public funds made to British Leyland since February 1974, stating in each case the date of the payment and the legislation under which it was provided, and if the Secretary of State for Industry would show out of the total sum paid to British Leyland since February 1974 from public funds what amount was for meeting (a) revenue and (b) capital expenditure.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The main payment which has been made to British Leyland from public funds since February 1974 is the £200 million subscribed, under the British Leyland Act 1975, for shares pursuant to the Rights Issue, in implementation of the Ryder Report. This payment was made in October 1975.

'Other payments, and the purposes for which the funds were made available are:

4 December 1974

£1.5 million loan under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 (Assistance for capital investment at the Pengam (Cardiff) plant).

16 December 1974

£4.0 million loan under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 (Assistance for capital investment in the Speke (Liverpool) Development Project).

27 February 1975

£1.5 million loan under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 (Assistance for capital investment at the Pengam (Cardiff) plant).

'British Leyland have also taken advantage of the various schemes of assistance available under the Industrial Development Act 1966, the Investment and Building Grants Act 1971 and Part 1 of the Industry Act 1972.'

Artificial fibres

Mr. Dafydd Wigley asked what was the volume of production of artificial fibres in the UK last year; and what proportion of this production came from Wales.

Mr. Carmichael said that production of man-made fibres in 1974 was as follows:

	'000 metric tons
'Artificial' (viscose and acetate)	231.5
Synthetic*	396.1
Total	627.6

Separate figures for Wales are not available.
* Fibres or filaments produced from polymers built up from chemical elements or compounds.
Source: Made Made Fibres Producers' Committee.

Refrigerators

Mr. Wigley asked how many refrigerators were produced and sold, respectively, in the UK last year; what were the main countries of origin of the balance of imports: and in what proportion.

Mr. Carmichael gave the information as follows:

Domestic electric refrigerators produced in the United Kingdom, 1974	1,094,000	
Domestic electric refrigerators sold in the United Kingdom, 1974 (including imports)	1,528,000	
Source of imported domestic electric refrigerators, 1974:		
Italy	470,000	75.4%
Sweden	51,000	8.1%
Soviet Union	21,000	3.3%
Spain	18,000	2.8%
West Germany	16,000	2.5%
Hungary	12,000	1.9%
Poland	7,000	1.2%
Norway	5,000	0.9%
France	4,000	0.7%
Denmark	4,000	0.7%
USA	4,000	0.6%
Switzerland	4,000	0.6%
All others	7,000	1.3%
Total	623,000	100.0%

Source: Business Monitor, Customs and Excise.

PVC

Mr. Wigley (Caernarvon) asked what was the value of production and consumption of PVC in the UK last year; what were the main countries of origin of the balance of imports; and in what proportion.

Mr. Carmichael said that figures of the

value of production are not collected. He gave the following information:

Value of sales of PVC (resins, latices, solutions, emulsions and dispersions) by United Kingdom manufacturers in 1974	£64 million
Estimated consumption in the United Kingdom in 1974	£82 million

Source of imports of PVC, 1974:

	£ million	%
Italy	11.0	32
West Germany	7.9	23
France	3.0	9
Netherlands	2.5	7
Norway	2.4	7
USA	2.2	6
Benelux	1.4	4
All others	4.6	12
Total	35.0	100

Source: Business Monitor, Customs and Excise.

Thursday, 18 December

Cross Channel Car Ferries

Mr. Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) asked for a statement on the implementation of the Monopolies Commission's Report on Cross Channel Car Ferry Services.

Mr. Williams said: 'The House will recall that on 11 April 1974 I announced that the Government accepted the conclusions and recommendations in the Monopolies Commission's report on cross-Channel car ferry services. I then said that I was asking the Director General of Fair Trading to discuss implementation of the Commission's recommendations with the United Kingdom operators.

'The Director General has been devoting particular attention to improving the fare structure in accordance with the Commission's recommendation that this should be reviewed when application for any increase in fares was considered. The United Kingdom operators have agreed to introduce a three-tier seasonal tariff for cars with effect from 1 January 1976. There will be standard season rates from 1 April to 8 July and from 6 September to 31 December, a total of nearly 31 weeks. In the summer season of just over eight weeks (9 July to 5 September) car rates will be approximately 20 per cent above the standard season rates and in the 13 week winter season (1 January to 31 March) they will be approximately 20 per cent below the standard season rates.

'Lengthy discussions have also taken place between the UK operators and the DGFT concerning the rate and fare increases sought by them for 1976. Original estimates made by the UK operators were that, due to extremely sharp increases in their costs, rates for 1976 would need to rise overall by up to 39 per cent and that increases of this magnitude would not lead to unreasonable profits being made.

'However, the operators have now proposed, and I have accepted that for 1976 the standard season rates should be the same as for the summer season of 1975 (subject to one exception where they will be lower) and that the winter season rates should be the same as obtain now. The increase in the 1976 summer season rates, as compared with rates in the corresponding period of 1975, will vary by amounts from £2 for a Mini to £5 for the largest car, on the routes most used. From 1 April 1976 there will also be an increase in fares for passengers accompanying cars, and surcharges will be introduced for Hovercraft travel between Dover and Boulogne.

'I am asking the Director General to continue his discussions with the United Kingdom operators to ensure the effective implementation of the Commission's recommendations about the Harmonisation Conference and pooling arrangements, and also to obtain further improvements in the tariff.'

Furniture prices

Mr. Ronald Brown (Hackney South and Shoreditch) drew the attention of the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to 'the high retail mark-up on furniture', and asked if she would investigate the retail price structure for furniture; and if in the meanwhile she would consider reducing the hire purchase restrictions on furniture.

'The mark-ups needed by distributors vary from one trade to another according to the rapidity with which they turn over their stock', said Mr. MacLennan. 'I am aware that recommended retail prices for furniture vary considerably, but there is no evidence that profit margins actually realised by the industry are unreasonable. I do not think an investigation into the industry's price structure is called for at the present time; but I will keep the possibility in mind. Abolition of hire purchase restrictions on furniture were announced by my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor yesterday.'

Minimum weight principle of pricing

Mr. Kenneth Lomas (Huddersfield West) asked what efforts have been made to persuade the EEC to accept the United Kingdom principle of minimum weight, instead of average weight for pre-packed food.

Mr. Williams answered: 'During the years between 1972 and 1974 every effort was made to convince the other EEC countries of the advantages of adopting the minimum weight system. The Government finally accepted that it had no option but to agree the adoption of the average weight system following a decision by the United Nations Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Labelling to recommend the use of this system on a world-wide basis.

'During negotiations on the main EEC directives concerning prepacked foodstuffs the UK secured a derogation until 31 December 1979. A Working Party has been set up to make recommendations on the method of implementation of these directives in the UK.'

Price of petrol

Mr. Sydney Tierney (Birmingham, Yardley) asked if steps would be taken to curb the advertising of the price of petrol per gallon in units to a tenth degree of a penny, in view of the fact that it is not legally enforceable.

'No', said Mr. Williams. 'If petrol is being advertised at a price which is less than that at which it is in fact being offered, there may be an offence under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. Enforcement of the Act is the responsibility of the local weights and measures authorities, to whom complaints should be addressed.'

Welsh language leaflet for consumers

Mr. Caerwyn Roderick (Brecon and Radnor) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection planned to introduce Welsh translations of her department's publicity leaflets.

Mr. Williams replied: 'The first Welsh language leaflet from my Department will be a translation of 'Your Rights When Buying Goods'. I hope to have copies ready for distribution in Wales early in the New Year.'

ECGD

Mr. John Garrett (Norwich South) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade could announce improvements on the facilities of the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Mr. Shore's reply is published on page 28.

Auxiliary Coastguard

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston-upon-Hull Central) asked for a statement regarding reductions in expenditure on the Auxiliary Coastguard Service.

Mr. Clinton Davis's reply is on page 6.

Airline overbooking

Questions on airline overbooking were asked by Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar). He asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would, in the light of the recent decision of the House of Lords, initiate discussions with British Airways to replace the system of ticket over-booking; if he would contact IATA, with a view to obtaining international agreement to end the system of over-booking, and if he would issue guidance to British Airways and all other airlines represented in the UK to introduce a system of a sizeable forfeitable deposit to prevent over-booking.

Mr. Shore answered: 'I am currently considering the question of airline overbooking and will naturally take full account of the recent decision in the case of the British Airways Board v Taylor. My Department is in touch with the Authority and with British Airways and I understand that the latter have already suggested to the International Air Transport Association and to other airlines flying out of the United Kingdom that joint consideration be given to such action that may be required in the light of this decision.'

EEC laws relating to commercial agents

Mr. Tom Normanton (Cheadle) asked the Secretary of State for Trade 'When he will be in a position to make a statement on progress towards the adoption of legislation on commercial agency which has already been accepted by the other eight member States in the European Community?'

Mr. Deakins answered: 'I assume the Hon. Member is referring to the draft proposal for an EEC Directive on harmonisation of laws relating to commercial agents. Our understanding is that Commission officials are revising the text of their draft. The question of acceptance by Member States arises after the Commission has put a proposal to the Council.'

UK steel production

Mr. Wigley asked what was the total steel production in the UK last year; and what proportion of this was produced in Wales.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman told him that production of crude steel in the UK amounted to 22.4 million tonnes in 1974, of which 30 per cent was produced in Wales. (Source: Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau).

ICL

Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked for a further statement about the Government's support for the computer leasing activities of International Computer Ltd.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'Since 1971 assurances have been given to Computer Leasings Ltd., and certain other companies providing finance for ICL's leasing in the United Kingdom, that the Government would if necessary be prepared to assist ICL in fulfilling its obligations to those companies in respect of the repurchase of equipment returned from leasing. Recently, at ICL's request, this support for their leasing activities has been renewed until 30 September 1978. The names of the companies concerned, which by agreement with ICL may be changed from time to time, will continue to be given in Estimates, together with token provision for the Government's contingent liability.'

Post Office deliveries

Mr. Tom King (Bridgwater) asked how the current level of postal traffic compares with last year.

Mr. Gregor MacKenzie answered that the Post Office estimate that the total volume of letter traffic during the period 9 November to 6 December 1975, has declined by 12.6 per cent when compared with the same period in 1974.

Mr. King also asked for the latest figures for the proportions of first and second class mail.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that over the period from 9 November to 6 December 1975, 38.7 per cent of letter traffic was sent first class and 61.3 per cent second class. These figures are based on sampling and exclude mail franked by users' own postage meter machines.

Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry) inquired about the expected fall in the volume of Christmas post as a consequence of the rising costs of postage and greetings cards.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The Post Office, in a press release issued on 9 December, estimated that Christmas mail would fall from 811 million letters and parcels in 1974 to about 709 million this year.'

Financial assistance to industry

Mr. Wigley (Caernarvon) asked for information on the total Government subsidy to private industry in England, Scotland and Wales, respectively, net of repayments, for each of the past three years.

Mr. MacKenzie gave the following figures.

£m at historic prices and net of repayments

	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
England	351	405	542
Scotland	122	121	173
Wales	52	59	68
Unallocated	121	112	110
Total	646	697	893

Rolls-Royce 1971

Mr. Alf Bates (Bebington and Ellesmere Port) asked what Government equity and loan funding are Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd., to receive in 1976 and later years.

Mr. Varley said: 'The Government's 100 per cent shareholding in Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd. is shortly to be transferred to the National Enterprise Board which will be responsible for the Company's financing. It is not possible to decide at present on what funds Rolls Royce should receive in 1976 because the Company have not yet put forward their operating plan. Meanwhile current financing arrangements are continuing as necessary. For the longer term Rolls Royce have formulated a general strategy within which on 9 December they submitted broad financial forecasts for the next five years. These are now under examination. Decisions on individual civil engine projects within this programme will be made when the Company make definite proposals and after a rigorous economic assessment. Support is already committed, of course, on RB211 applications for the Lockheed L1011 and Boeing 747. The Company have put forward no definite proposals at present for financial support for new projects although some possibilities are outlined in their five year forecasts.'

Friday, 19 December

Telephone exchange equipment

Mr. John Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyme) asked for a statement about future Post Office orders for telephone exchange equipment.

Mr. Varley said: 'In October the Post Office gave to the manufacturers a revised ordering programme for telephone exchange equipment up to 1979. This includes a steadily increasing proportion of electronic TXE 4 and TXE 2 equipment. This programme has been discussed with the Post Office and they have also taken account of the views of the manufacturers and of Trades Unions in the Post Office and in the supplying industry. My conclusion is that the October ordering programme is consistent with the best current forecasts of the requirements of the Post Office and with the long term interest of the supplying industry and its export prospects. It will be kept under review as the situation develops.'

Secretary of State for Industry's responsibilities in Scotland

Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire) asked for a list of the Secretary of State for Industry's Ministerial responsibilities in Scotland.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend is responsible for general industrial policy, including financial assistance to industry under the Industry Act 1972, and policy towards planning agreements. He sponsors the National Enterprise Board, the British Steel Corporation, the Post Office Corporation, Cable and Wireless Ltd., and the aircraft, shipbuilding and general manufacturing industries. He is also responsible for technical services to industry, for industrial research and development including civil aerospace research and the supervision of industrial research establishments. All these responsibilities are exerciseable in Scotland except that on 1 July 1975 the Secretary of State for Scotland assumed responsibility for selective financial assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act, 1972, for the provision of industrial sites and factories, and for certain related steering and promotional activities.'

Television sets

Mr. Wigley asked for the total number of new television sets produced and consumed in the UK last year; from what main countries the balance of imports emanated and in what proportion; and what percentage of UK production came from Wales.

Mr. Carmichael said: 'The information so far as it is available is given in the following table. Information on production in Wales cannot be given for reasons of confidentiality.'

TELEVISION SETS PRODUCED AND SOLD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1974

	Colour sets thousands		Mono sets thousands	
Total television sets produced	1,947		669	
Total TV sets sold in the UK (including imports)	2,278		832	
Source of imported TV sets	Thousands	Per cent	Thousands	Per cent
Japan	202	46.2	126	52.3
West Germany	56	12.8	—	—
Austria	54	12.4	—	—
Finland	53	12.1	—	—
Italy	18	4.1	24	10.0
Sweden	14	3.2	—	—
Norway	14	3.2	—	—
Denmark	7	1.6	—	—
Netherlands	5	1.1	3	1.2
Irish Republic	4	0.9	15	6.2
France	4	0.9	—	—
Switzerland	2	0.5	—	—
Belgium	2	0.5	—	—
Singapore	—	—	31	12.9
Portugal	—	—	19	7.9
Soviet Union	—	—	16	6.6
Taiwan	—	—	3	1.2
Others	2	0.5	4	1.7
Total	437	100	241	100

Source: Business Monitor PQ 356.2; Customs and Excise.

Night jet movements

Mr. Ted Graham (Enfield, Edmonton) asked what restrictions are to be applied to night jet movements at Heathrow and at Gatwick in the summer season from 1 April to 30 October 1976.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'At both Heathrow and Gatwick the quotas in the 1976 summer season will be maintained at the 1975 levels. At Heathrow, therefore, the permitted number of night jet movements will be 2,600 and at Gatwick 3,100.

'The limits at both airports include a quota of movements reserved for noise-certificated aircraft. These quotas have been increased to 400 at Heathrow and to 300 at Gatwick. The quotas at both airports were 200 in 1975.

'The hours of restriction at both airports and the severe restriction on night jet departures at Heathrow will apply on the same basis as in the summer of 1975.'

Food prices

Sir John Eden (Bournemouth West) referred to a claim by the food industry that the coarseness of the British currency will create pricing problems associated with the changeover from imperial measures to metric equivalents, which may be damaging to the consumer, and asked what action is proposed.

Parliament continued

Mr. Williams said: 'Most price adjustments involve rounding problems. Metrication does not necessarily involve price adjustments but where, for example, a metric pack is a different size from the one it replaces there may be a need to round prices up or down to the nearest ½p. Metrication cannot be used by manufacturers to breach the Price Code provisions. This safeguards the overall interests of the consumer. In addition we will not hesitate, where necessary, to use the price marking powers under our 1974 Prices Act to enable consumers to make the value for money judgments to which the Hon. Member attached such importance in the 1972 White Paper on Metrication (Cmnd. 4880).'

Consumer Councils

Mr. J. M. Craigen (Glasgow, Maryhill) asked how many consumer councils are in being; and what was the total cost of their operation during the past year.

'There are 46 nationalised industry consultative consumer councils in Great Britain,' said Mr. Williams. 'These include the councils and committees established by statute for the coal, gas, electricity and surface transport industries and for the Post Office. The provision for them in estimates for 1975–76 is £1,445,000.'

Butter consumption

Mr. Widley asked what was the percentage increase in the rate of consumption of butter between the time of formulation of the original 1975–76 Civil Estimates and the latest Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The original estimates were based upon a forecast of butter consumption in the current financial year. This has now been revised upwards by about 9 per cent.'

Assistance to industry

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) asked why the £162.5 million of financial assistance to Chrysler UK Ltd. was made available under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 while the £26,179,765 of financial assistance to Herbert Ltd. was made available under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 as amended by Section 22 of, and Part I of Schedule 4 to, the Industry Act 1975.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'The assistance made available to Herbert Ltd. involves acquisition of more than half of the equity share capital. The provisions referred to in the Industry Act 1975 removed the restriction against such an acquisition under Section 8 (3)(b) of the Industry Act 1972. No acquisition of shares is involved in the assistance to Chrysler UK Ltd. and it can therefore be provided without reference to the amending provisions of the 1975 Industry Act.'

EEC aids for silkworm rearers

Mr. John Biffen asked for a list of the aids for silk worm rearers currently proposed by the EEC Commission with particular reference to the suggested stock-piling premium; the expected cost of these schemes; and what views have been expressed to the Commission on behalf of the UK Government.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'EEC Regulation 845/72 of 24 April 1972 provides for aid to silkworm rearers in the form of a subsidy for each box of silkworm eggs produced. The subsidy, which is currently 36.50 units of account per box, is funded from the Community budget. The level of the subsidy is reviewed each year. A proposed increase of the unit subsidy to 40 units of account for the 1976/77 rearing year will be considered in the forthcoming CAP Prices Review. The EEC Commission's estimate of the cost of this scheme to the Community budget for 1976/77 is 2 million units of account. A scheme of aid for stockpiling, proposed by Italy earlier this year has been rejected.

'A further scheme of aid to rationalise marketing in the silkworm sector has been proposed by the EEC Commission for consideration during the current CAP Prices Review. The scheme involves a supplementary aid of 6 units of account for each box of silkworm eggs produced during the 1976/77 rearing year provided that the rearer concerned supplies a minimum quantity of cocoons to a recognised marketing organisation. No further details or estimates of the cost of this scheme are yet available.

'Her Majesty's Government has not so far expressed any view on this scheme or the proposed increase in subsidy under Regulation 845/72.

'The United Kingdom has no interest in this sector other than containing the cost of the Common Agricultural Policy.'

EEC grants to UK industries

Mr. David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked what was the total amount of grants to UK industry from the EEC, at the latest date for which figures are available, the proportion of it which went to nationalised industries, the proportion to the private sector companies, the number of undertakings assisted in each case and the numbers employed by each employer so assisted.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The total amount of grants which has been approved for UK industry from EEC/ECSC funds is given below. Figures for loans approved since accession are also given for the sake of completeness. Information on the number of workers assisted through these funds is not available in the majority of cases since applications in the main are not tied to an employment criterion. In most instances applications for loans do not need to be channelled through my Department.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

The EIB has approved 33 loans in the UK to a total value of £309.3 million, £264.3 million of this total was for the public sector (25 loans) and £45 million (8 loans) for the private sector.

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

(*a*) *Loans*

Loans for modernisation purposes amounting to £103.95 million have been approved for the British Steel Corporation and £4.3 million to four firms in the private steel sector. Similar loans to a total of £88.957 million have been approved for the National Coal Board. UK industry is also eligible for reconversion loans for projects providing employment for redundant coal and steel workers. A total of £46.4 million in reconversion loans has been approved for UK industry; £30.55 million for the BSC, £0.765 million for a private steel firm and £15.1 million for industries outside the coal and steel sectors.

(*b*) *Grants*

The ECSC has approved research grants amounting to £1.840 million for BSC, £0.174 million for the private steel sector and £7.435 million for the NCB. Under the ECSC Treaty readaptation grants are available for redundant coal and steel workers. These grants, provided jointly by the Commission and the British Government, comprise tideover and resettlement allowances, and assistance for vocational retraining. So far readaptation grants amounting to £10.44 million have been approved for the coal sector and £3.095 million for the steel sector, involving some 11,300 redundant steel workers. The figure of £4.25 million is only an interim figure and until a final payment is decided upon, it is not possible to relate the assistance to the number of redundant miners involved.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Commission announced this Thursday commitments from the Regional Development Fund to the UK Government of £12.2 million in respect of 111 private sector industrial investment projects. It is estimated that these will create over 13,000 new jobs.

Detailed statistics of UK overseas trade

Each month the Overseas Trade Statistics give a considerable amount of detail about United Kingdom imports, exports and commodities and, for many of them, the most important countries. The information in these statistics is a summary of much more detailed information. This is derived from declarations made by traders to HM Customs and Excise under the descriptions in the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification (which has over 11,000 commodity headings); there are 199 specified countries.

The fully detailed information is not published on a monthly basis but, when circumstances allow HM Customs and Excise can supply detailed information about trade under individual descriptions of the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification and with individual countries or through United Kingdom ports, either for particular months or for longer periods. A charge is made which covers the cost of the service. Applications should be made to the Statistical Office (Bill of Entry Section), HM Customs and Excise, 27 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6AL. (Tel. Southend (0702) 49421, ext. 316 or 323 for Imports, or ext. 314 or 315 for Exports, Telex 99112 CUSEX Southend.)

Addresses of ECGD offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme, enables exporters who are eligible to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 35 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with one of the offices listed below.

Central London

London, EC1 to EC4, WC1 and 2, W1 and SW1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292, Telex 24105.

South London

London SE, SW2–20 and W2–14, Kent, Surrey (excluding the administrative district of Spelthorne), East and West Sussex, the eastern part of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

G. J. A. Link, 320 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4XJ. Tel. 01-686 9921. Telex 946998.

North London

London N, NW, E, the southern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Slough, Burnham and Datchet area of Berkshire and the Spelthorne district of Surrey.

C. W. Gentry, 593–599 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SW. Tel. 01-808 4570. Telex 263615.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE. Tel. 0232 31743. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, the southern part of Derbyshire and that part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Worcestershire.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gloucester, Avon, Wiltshire, Oxon, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. That part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Herefordshire, Berkshire except the Slough, Burnham and Datchet areas and the western part of Hampshire.

R. A. Bounds, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

Cambridge

Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk, the northern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the southern part of Lincolnshire including the City of Lincoln.

H. Watson, Three Crowns House, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1NJ. Tel. 0223 68801. Telex 81624.

Glasgow

Scotland and the Outer Isles.

F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel. 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

Leeds

Durham, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire, Humberside and the northern part of Lincolnshire.

W. Ford, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA. Tel. 0532 450631. Telex 55125.

Manchester

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, the northern part of Derbyshire and Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

J. K. Sedman c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022 USA. Tel. 212-593 2258. Telex 420543.

BOTB News

More than 270 companies to be supported at trade fairs in North America

More than 270 British companies will be exhibiting in 19 joint ventures at trade fairs in the USA and Canada during the first four months of 1976 with the help of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Consumer goods including cycles, fashions, toys, gifts and a wide range of other British products will be exhibited. Some of the best of Britain's china and glass will be displayed at the Atlantic City China and Glass Show in January – one of the most important events of its kind in the USA – and more British companies than ever before will take part in the New York European Fashion Fair in February.

British capital goods will be displayed at the New Orleans Gas Turbine Conference and Products Show in March and at the Chicago Materials Handling Show in April.

Several trade missions to North America, sponsored by the Board, have been arranged to coincide with and support British exhibitors at important trade fairs. A mission arranged by the British Jewellery and Giftware Federation will be in New York during the prestigious International Jewellery Trade Fair in February and a mission of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders will coincide with the Society of Automotive Engineers Exposition and Conference in Detroit. In total, 13 trade missions sponsored by the Board will go to North America during January-April 1976.

Belgrade International Technical Fair

The scope of the above fair which will be held from 10-15 May is extremely varied and the range of industries covered include the following: electronic components; machine tools; industrial control systems; air condition and refrigeration plant; office machinery; data-processing equipment, and other types of industrial and domestic equipment.

The BOTB will not be organising a joint venture to this event but further information on this exhibition may be obtained from the fair authorities at the following address:

Prof. Milovan Jevtovic (or Mrs. Radmila Prstojevic),
Belgrade Fairground,
Bulevar Vojvode Misica 14,
Belgrade,
Yugoslavia.
Telex 11306YU; tel. 655-031.

Country Desk contact in the Department's Fairs and Promotions Branch, A. E. Reid, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 604.

Hardware joint venture to Toronto

Sixteen companies will be participating in the joint venture organised by the Hardware Manufacturers' Association with the BOTB to the Canadian Hardware Show, Coliseum Exhibition Park, Toronto from 8-11 February. They will occupy a total stand area of 3,120 sq. ft.

The exhibition covers all aspects of hardware, as well as sports goods and camping equipment. Products shown by individual members of the joint venture group will include bathroom fittings, car accessories, cookware, curtain track, door and window furniture, florists' sundry items, garden furniture and equipment, kitchen equipment, occasional and nursery furniture, padlocks, precision instruments and tools.

Air mail for export correspondence

All correspondence overseas should be done by air but care should be taken that mail is fully stamped as correspondence may be delayed and export opportunities lost. Outside busy periods, such as Christmas, the Post Office often makes up postage on insufficiently stamped airmail letters (though this cannot be guaranteed) provided the sender's name and address appears on the envelope. An insufficiently stamped airmail letter not having this information may be sent surface mail or the addressee may be called upon to pay double the missing postage. Full details of overseas postage rates (and much other useful information) are given in the Post Office Guide, obtainable at all post offices, price 20p.

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307 High Holborn, London WC1V 7LS

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Exhibitions and Fairs

British hats for Japanese ladies

From Robert Cooper, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Tokyo: Imports into Japan of ladies hats from the UK will make a significant rise in the 1975 statistics simply because one man visited Japan for one week – and out of the season too.

Japanese buyers and retailers will normally tell anyone who cares to ask that there is no market for ladies hats in Japan, but when Mr. Heymann of Marida Exports actually arrived in Tokyo and set up his samples in one of the British Export Marketing Centre's executive offices the problem was to fit into the available time all the people who wanted to see his hats. Indeed potential buyers were still arriving when Mr. Heymann was packing up his samples after an exhausting and order-filled week.

It was Mr. Heymann's first visit to Japan but seems certain not to be his last. Next time he comes he plans to use the same centrally located office at the BEMC. The office was specially fitted out by the centre's contractor so that the hats could be properly displayed. Next time he will doubtless set his target sales figure even higher – he easily could exceed this year's target – and will stay longer to accommodate all the potential customers.

Ladies fashion seems to be a recession-proof market in Japan. Original design and high quality are the key – that combined with the kind of effort and preparation Mr. Heymann made will produce results in Japan almost every time.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Mechanical and electronic engineering in Brazil

From Douglas Rees, British Consulate-General, São Paulo: Nine British companies showed at Imef '75, the First International Mechanical Engineering and Electro/Electronics Fair held at São Paulo, Brazil, between 20-30 November, through a joint venture organised by the BOTB and the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers Association Ltd.

The 78,000m² of the Parque Anhembi Exhibition Hall were fully taken up for this important event which attracted other major groups of exhibitors – from the USA (the largest, with more than 70 exhibitors), France, Germany, and Italy. A total of approximately 250,000 visitors was recorded.

Products publicised by UK exhibitors included electric motors, servo components, power-supply stabilising equipment, electrical fuses, industrial finishing machines, onshore and marine diesel engines, oilfield equipment, airfield and telecommunications equipment.

The general result of the UK joint venture was satisfactory; companies new to the market either appointed agents or made promising contacts and there were substantial firm inquiries worth about £2 million.

Perhaps largely because of the holding of Britain's own Industrial Exhibition at São Paulo in 1974, UK participation this time was less than might have been expected for a priority market. The next similar event, being considered for 1977, should see a much larger British presence.

Paris Batimat success

From Robert Hyde, Second Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Paris: The 10th Paris International Building Materials Exhibition (Batimat) held from 20-30 November at the Porte de Versailles Exhibition Park attracted a record attendance of more than 300,000. The show was also the biggest in terms of exhibits; 2,741 exhibitors occupied stand space of over 84,000m². As in 1973, more than 100 British firms (the third largest foreign participation) were represented, most through their local agents or subsidiaries. Some 35 companies participated in joint ventures with the Building Materials Export Group (BMEG) and the British Carpets Export Association.

The Minister for Housing and Construction, Reginald Freeson, paid an official visit to Batimat on 24 November, which had been designated British Day. After a tour covering all the joint venture stands and those of several British companies exhibiting independently, the minister attended a press reception in his honour given by the BMEG. He was later the principal guest at a luncheon hosted by M. Pierre le Prince, commissioner-general of Batimat.

British exhibits covered a wide range of products (France is a major market for British building materials) and British firms fell into three main categories: those already well established in France through agents or subsidiaries; those newly represented in the market, and those entering the market for the first time. In general, companies in the first and second groups reported satisfactory results from the exhibition. This was taking place at a time when the construction industry was beginning to benefit from the French government's reflationary measures announced in September.

Among the products which attracted particular interest were the 'Commodore' circular pump of SMC (not yet launched on the British market) and the clay piping produced by Hepworth Iron. Among the newcomers, E. H. Bradley Building Products did particularly well with their reconstituted stone, which attracted a number of serious inquiries regarding manufacture under licence in France; Essex Aluminium were inundated by architects inquiring about their aluminium window frames, while Catnic drew an encouraging amount of interest with their steel lintels – an item until now very little used in French building.

The British carpet industry maintained its 1974 level of exports by value during the first nine months of 1975. The six British carpet manufacturers represented at Batimat were well satisfied with the results of the exhibition.

Trade Information

Improvements in ECGD facilities

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has announced four improvements in the facilities available to exporters from the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

In reply to a Parliamentary written question on 18 December, Mr. Shore said:

'The following improvements are being introduced by ECGD:

'We have worked out a new scheme to insure members of a consortium contracting overseas against losses they may sustain as a consequence of the insolvency of a fellow consortium member. ECGD will be introducing this facility after discussion with industry.

'British industry has found it increasingly difficult to form consortia to tender for major projects where, because of such risks, they would be exposed to heavy losses which they are unable to bear. The commercial insurance market does provide some cover, but is unable to meet the demand on the scale involved. This new facility will, I hope, encourage exporters to go after these large projects.

'The second facility to which I would refer is that to provide pre-shipment finance for exports. I reported the introduction of this scheme in August last and can now tell the House that the facility is generally available. The scheme applies to desirable overseas contracts for capital goods or projects insured by ECGD and valued at £1 million or more and involving a manufacturing period of at least one year. Finance made available under this facility will be at the appropriate market borrowing rate. Each case will need to be negotiated individually between the exporter, his bank and ECGD.

'Thirdly, in February I announced a new scheme to provide cost escalation cover for capital goods exports. It has helped to win several useful contracts but, as I told the House in August, I have been keeping it under close review in consultation with industry. I have now authorised the Department to make some changes in the light of our experience. To achieve more flexibility in operation, ECGD may now reduce somewhat the minimum first proportion of annual cost increases which the buyer or the exporter has to bear – the so-called "threshold". Where exporters choose higher thresholds, ECGD may now widen the present bands of cover, and enhance the incentive for cash contracts. My officials are ready to discuss with individual exporters, whose requirements vary widely, how best to make use of these changes.

'In addition, in order to help exporters with possible cash flow problems, part of any claims which arise may in future be paid by stages as the contract proceeds, though no payment will be made before April 1977.

'The scheme is designed to meet the temporary and abnormal difficulties of cost inflation. I believe that while our inflation is being steadily brought down to the rates in other major exporting countries, these improvements will enable exporters more effectively to overcome these transitional problems.

'It is frequently suggested to me that ECGD should do more to assist exports of consumer and light engineering goods which are generally made on short credit not exceeding six months. More than 80 per cent of the exports insured annually by ECGD are made on short credit under the Comprehensive Short Term Guarantee.

'To facilitate the establishment of credit limits on buyers under their Comprehensive Guarantees ECGD are now doubling the maximum amounts up to which the insured can fix these limits without reference to ECGD. In addition ECGD will give priority to credit limit applications from exporters who themselves provide an up-to-date report on their buyers from bank or credit information agencies.

'With these new and improved facilities available to them from ECGD, firms should be in a much better position to take full advantage of the expected upturn in demand. The Government looks to the capital goods industries in particular to ensure that they have the capacity to meet this demand, both overseas and at home.'

ECGD news

£1.4m of UK rail equipment for Peru

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a loan for £1.2 million which Lloyds Bank International has arranged with Corporacion Financiera de Desarrollo, Peru.

The loan will help finance a contract of £1.4 million for rail fastening equipment which Pandrol Ltd. of London is to supply to Empresa Nacional de Ferrocarriles del Peru. The equipment for 160km of track is scheduled to be delivered by October 1976.

Two secondhand cargo vessels for Cameroon

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £2.2 million loan to help finance the purchase from the Elder Dempster Lines Ltd. by Cameroon Shipping Lines SA of two secondhand cargo vessels. Baring Brothers and Co. Ltd. arranged the loan with the buyer on behalf of Lloyds Bank Ltd.

The two ships, MV *Fulani* and MV *Forcados*, 8,115 tons, were built in 1964 by Lithgows Ltd. of Port Glasgow.

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (Tel: 01-606 6699). ECGD has 10 local offices in various parts of the United Kingdom; these are listed from time to time in *Trade and Industry*.

Iran-UK Joint Ministerial Economic Commission Communique

The Fourth Session of the Iran-UK Joint Ministerial Economic Commission took place in London from 17 to 19 December under the joint chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Peter Shore MP, Secretary of State for Trade, and HE Mr. Fereidoun Mahdavi, Minister of Commerce.

During his visit to London HE Mr. Mahdavi had meetings with HRH The Duke of Kent, the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Industry. HE Mr. Mahdavi also visited the House of Commons and the new Covent Garden Market.

During the meetings of the Joint Ministerial Economic Commission the following main points were covered:

The Iranian side welcomed the efforts made by the British Government and the British vehicle industry to maintain and extend their participation in the development of the Iranian vehicle industry. Both sides expressed the hope that this co-operation would continue to play an important role in the expansion of relations between Iran and the United Kingdom.

Trade between Iran and the United Kingdom will total more than £1.2 billion in 1975. United Kingdom exports to Iran will be over £500 million in 1975 compared with £278 million in 1974.

The measures discussed during the current session are designed to consolidate the existing areas of co-operation between the two countries and to create new ones.

Both sides welcomed the success of the Financial Conference in Tehran in October and the practical follow-up procedures agreed on.

The UK confirmed its readiness, as have other EEC countries, to help establish a special relationship between Iran and the EEC. Both sides agreed that the relationship between Iran and the EEC must be based on common interests and mutual respect, and should fully reflect the steadily-growing importance of Iran as an industrial country. The United Kingdom reaffirmed its continuing intentions to play a leading role within the European Economic Community in promoting such an agreement.

The Joint Ministerial Economic Commission reviewed progress of the major projects agreed at the meeting held in Tehran in January (Housing, Hospitals, Railway Electrification) and agreed that these were proceeding satisfactorily.

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, with Fereidoun Mahdavi, Iranian Minister of Commerce. Mr. Mahdavi was in London during December to act as co-chairman, with Peter Shore, of a meeting of the Irano-British Joint Ministerial Commission for Trade and Economic Development. Mr. Mahdavi attended the opening meeting of the Joint Commission with Mr. Shore on 17 December, and, during his week in the UK, called on the Prime Minister; the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey; the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins; the Secretary of State for the Environment, Anthony Crosland; and the Secretary of State for Industry, Eric Varley. His programme also included talks with industrialists involved in UK-Iranian trade and a tour of the new Covent Garden Market.

New areas for co-operation were identified in:
1 the Iranian oil and gas industry following the successful mission by the Council of British Manufacturers of Petroleum Equipment to Iran in September;
2 telecommunications, road construction, agriculture and distribution;
3 training and education, in particular in the development of a college of nautical education in Baluchistan, and in a vocational training centre at Alborz and a training centre at Tabriz.

Both Governments confirmed their support for the creation of new joint ventures between Iranian and British firms. Joint ventures already made a substantial contribution to co-operation between Iran and the United Kingdom and new sectors for joint ventures are opening up.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1529: Imports of certain textiles from Spain and Portugal

As announced on 17 December, the importation of certain cotton yarn originating in Spain or Portugal and certain woven man-made fibre fabrics originating in Portugal was restricted with effect from 18 December 1975. The goods affected and the quotas established for the period up to 31 December 1976 are:

Tariff heading	Description	Quota
55.05	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale	Spain – 2,732 tonnes Portugal – 4,924 tonnes
56.07	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres (discontinuous or waste)	Portugal – 2,221 tonnes

These goods are already subject to individual import licences under the surveillance arrangements announced in Notice to Importers No. 1484, published in *Trade and Industry* of 28 March 1975. Any outstanding licences issued under these arrangements in respect of these newly restricted goods from Spain or Portugal were revoked with effect from 18 December 1975.

Licensing arrangements

Allocations from the quotas will be based on past trade and traders are invited to apply to Import Licensing Branch not later than 15 January 1976 for such allocations. Applications

should be made on Form ILB/A to Import Licensing Branch, Department of Trade, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH and should be accompanied by a statement of past trade by the applicant supported by a report by a qualified practising independent accountant in the form shown in the Annex to this notice and covering the periods listed therein. Separate applications and statements should be made in respect of each of the three quotas.

Interim arrangements

As it might take some time for traders to obtain certified statements of their past import trade, interim licences will be issued to avoid delays and congestion at the ports. Importers wishing to apply for an interim licence, which will be valid to 29 February 1976, should submit as soon as possible separate Forms ILB/A which should be endorsed 'Interim' in the top right hand corner, in respect of the goods expected to be imported before 29 February 1976. The applications must be accompanied by an undertaking to the effect that the quantities of goods for which interim licences are being requested represent less than 20 per cent of the trader's imports of those goods during any period of 12 consecutive months since 1 January 1973, and that a certified statement of past trade is being prepared which will be submitted to Import Licensing Branch as soon as possible. Subsequent allocations from the quotas will be reduced by the quantities of goods for which interim licences have been issued.

Goods in transit

Goods which had been loaded into a ship or aircraft on or before 17 December 1975 for transport to the United Kingdom and which arrive on or before 31 December 1975 will be admitted without a licence subject to the production to HM Customs and Excise of satisfactory evidence of the date of shipment. Additionally goods which arrive in the United Kingdom on or before 23 December 1975 which, although not loaded into a ship or aircraft on or before 17 December, can be shown to have been despatched from the suppliers' premises to the United Kingdom on or before that date, will be admitted without a licence.

Re-exports

Applications for licences for the import of the goods covered by this notice intended for re-export (in the same state or after limited processing) should be submitted to Chemicals and Textiles Division, Department of Industry, Britannic Building, Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2FL and will be considered separately. The general import licensing arrangements for 'restricted' textiles re-exported from the United Kingdom are set out in Notice to Importers No. 1441.

Inquiries

General: Import Licensing Branch, Department of Trade, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 308.

Re-exports: Chemicals and Textiles Division, Department of Industry, Manchester, tel. 061-832 6011 or 061-832 5441.

Annex

IMPORTER'S STATEMENT

I/We declare that the quantities of goods shown below were cleared through United Kingdom Customs in my/our name in the period stated for home retention:

	1973 (tonnes)	1974 (tonnes)	1 Jan. 1975 to 30 Nov. 1975 (tonnes)
Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale (tariff heading 55.05) originating in Spain			
Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale (tariff heading 55.05) originating in Portugal			
Woven fabrics of man-made fibre (tariff heading 56.07) originating in Portugal			

Date ..... Signed .....

Status .....
(Proprietor, Partner, Director or Secretary)

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

'I/We have conferred with the officials and employees concerned in the compilation of the figures shown and have made such tests as I/we have considered necessary. I/We report that in my/our opinion, the figures are those required by the Department of Trade for the purpose of this application.'

Date ..... Signed .....

Professional Qualification .....

Address .....

No. 1531 Television sets and tubes: Import surveillance

As already announced, certain monochrome and all colour televison sets and colour television tubes consigned to the UK from all sources which are not already subject to individual import licensing, are being placed under import surveillance. This is being done by requiring importers to obtain individual import licences which will be issued freely without restriction as to quantity subject to the provision of certain information.

Accordingly, on and after 15 January 1976 the following goods imported into the United Kingdom from all sources will be permitted to be imported only under an individual import licence:

Tariff heading	Description of goods
ex 85.15	Monochrome television receivers with cathode-ray tubes whose bulb diagonal measurement is 15 in or less
ex 85.15	Colour television receivers of the domestic or portable type
ex 85.21	Television receiver cathode-ray colour tubes

The licences will be used for statistical purposes and applications must be accompanied by evidence in the form of copies of correspondence or of contract or order documents of intent to import the goods. The surveillance licences will be valid for three months and applications should be submitted covering only those imports expected during the validity of the licence.

Applications on Form ILB/A should be made to Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Against 'Description of Goods' on the form applicants should state 'Monochrome TV receiver' 'Colour TV receiver' or 'Colour TV tubes' as the case may be, together with in all cases, the tube size (bulb diagonal measurement) in inches *and* centimetres. Separate applications must be made for receivers (sets) and tubes and, in both cases, for each size of tube, eg in the case of an order for 1,000 receivers with 20 in tubes, 500 receivers with 22 in tubes, and 1,500 22 in tubes, three separate applications should be made. In addition the following information must be provided separately with each application in respect of tubes (but not in the case of sets):

Manufacturer's name	Configuration of electron gun (delta or in line)	Angle of deflection of electron beam (degrees)	Black matrix (state with or without)	Unit price (£ cif)

Licences not fully used at the expiry of validity should be returned to ILB. This will help to expedite the issue of further licences should they be required.

Imports from the Eastern Area

Transistorised television receivers and cathode-ray tubes originating in or consigned to the UK from the Eastern Area (which comprises Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Berlin (East), Hungary, North Korea, North Vietnam, the People's Republic of China, the People's Republic of Mongolia, Poland, Romania and the USSR) are already subject to individual import licensing arrangements. Imports of these goods from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the USSR are subject to *quotas* and 'surveillance' licences will not be required in addition to 'quota' licences; the quota arrangements have been set out in previous Notices and are unaffected by the surveillance arrangements. As there are no import licensing arrangements, quota or otherwise, for imports of these goods from Albania, China, North Korea, North Vietnam, or Mongolia, 'surveillance' import licences will not be granted for colour tubes or receivers from these countries.

Inquiries to Import Licensing Branch, (tel. 01-603 4600).

Application for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering introducing a revised definition for Mullite of which less than 10 per cent by weight is retained on a sieve having a nominal width of aperture of 4.75mm (25.07) as follows:

> Kyanite, sillimanite and mullite of which less than 10 per cent by weight is retained on a sieve having a nominal width of aperture of 4.75mm.

to run up to and including 30 June 1977.

Any representations, addressed to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, should be received by 16 January 1976.

Tariff Quotas 1976: paper and board and certain printed products in EFTA countries (and Finland): correction

The following corrections should be made to the article on pages 718-25 of the issue of *Trade and Industry* of 12 December.

Delete footnote marked * on page 718 and insert tariff/trade code numbers 4801 5282 and 4801 5421 in the appropriate column against quota 2141 on page 718 (Sweden), and quota 2125 on page 720 (Finland).

Tariff and Trade Notices

Norway

Imports of used agricultural machinery. The Norwegian Plant Health regulations now make it necessary for all used agricultural machinery to be completely free from soil so as to prevent the importation of weeds and other harmful plant organisms. A certificate verifying that these regulations have been complied with must be produced for each consignment of goods. Applications for certificates should be addressed to the local Plant Health and Seeds Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Luxembourg

Edible starches. The Luxembourg *Memorial* A60, 23 September 1975, published a decree on edible starches. The decree which came into force on 23 September 1975, is identical to the decree which came into effect in Belgium on 1 May 1975 (see *Trade and Industry*, 23 May 1975). Copies of the decree (in French) are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Netherlands

Fillings decree. The Netherlands Fillings Decree (Commodity Law) is amended by a decree of 14 November 1975 (*Staatsblad* 624) published on 27 November. Fillings means material for filling bedding, cushions, tea-cosies, children's toys, clothing or furniture. Copies of the decrees are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Textile products decree. The Netherlands Textile Products Decree (Commodity Law) of 19 July 1974 (*Staatsblad* 512) came into force on 1 December 1975 by means of a decree of 5 November 1975 (*Staatsblad* 626) published on 28 November 1975. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Further Information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

.CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Italy

Paper and paper products: extension of import surveillance. In the Italian *Informazioni per il Commercio Estero*, 19 November 1975, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, announced that the surveillance on imports of paper and paper products is extended until 31 January 1976.

In addition, from 1 November 1975, the importation of 'Kraftliner', BN 48.01 C11 statistical code 150, is liable to this same procedure, as set out in the notice published in *Trade and Industry*, 12 September 1975. Kraftliner products in transit or in customs warehouses on 30 October 1975 are not included. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 466/467/288.

Malta

Obnoxious articles, customs regulations. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 12 December 1975 published regulations under Legal Notice 155 of 1975. Those regulations shall be known as Obnoxious Articles (Prohibition of Importation) Regulations, 1975. The regulations read as follows:

> 'It shall not be lawful to import into Malta or to take out of bond any print, painting, photograph, film, book, card or writing or any other article whatsoever, whether similar to the above or not which is in any way threatening, offensive, libellous or seditious or which is pornographic or obscene in accordance with regulations made under section 222A of the Criminal Code.'

The Indecent Articles (Prohibition of Importation) Regulations, 1954 is repealed.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Israel

Standards. The Standards Institution of Israel has issued the following standards:

SI No.	Description
473	Cables, cords, insulated conductors for nominal voltage up to 1,000V – general requirements
900	Safety instructions for domestic electrical appliances
910	Electric welders held in the hand

The standards above have been declared official and compliance with them will become compulsory 60 days from 4 December 1975.

The Standards Institution of Israel issues an English translation of the standard and copies may be obtained from British Standards Institution Library, 2 Park Street, London W1 (tel. 01-629 9000, telex 266933). British exporters requiring technical advice are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HB1 1BR (tel. 0442 23111, telex 82424).

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Ivory Coast

Import quotas. Imports from all sources for the period ending 30 September 1976 have been fixed as follows:

Tariff no. 69-07-00, unglazed setts, flags and paving, hearth and wall tiles – 400,000 square metres.
Tariff no. 69-08-00, glazed setts, flags and paving, hearth and wall tiles.
Tariff no. 70-19-20 (70-19-068), mosaics and similar articles – 225,000 square metres.
Tariff no. 69-07-00 of a size 108 × 108 and
Tariff no. 69-08-00 of a size 20 × 20 or 10 × 20 – 600,000 square metres.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/462/471/473.

Pharmaceuticals and proprietary medicines. The maximum retail price of all such imported products which are exclusively sold in chemists' shops has been fixed at three times the manufacturers' price under Government Order 150 MC DPRF of 8 September 1975. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/462/471/473.

New Zealand

Weights and measures metric packages. The New Zealand Government has issued 'The Weights and Measures Metric Packages Notice 1975' which came into force on 28 November 1975.

This enables any article specified in the schedule to be sold by retail, so long as it is enclosed in a package of one of the net weights or measures specified in that schedule in relation to that article.

It does not restrict the right to use the Imperial weights and measures already prescribed in relation to those articles.

Schedule
METRIC PACKAGES OF BAR SOAP, SOFT SOAP, BLACK JAPAN, AND BRUNSWICK BLACK

Article	Permissible net measures	Permissible net weights
Bar soap		600g, 900g, 1.2kg, or 1.5kg
Soft soap		500g or multiples of 500g
Black japan	25ml, 50ml, 75ml, 100ml, 250ml, 500ml, or multiples of 500ml	25g, 50g, 75g, 100g, 250g, 500g, or multiples of 500g
Brunswick black		

Inquiries OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

United States

Generalised system of preferences. The *Federal Register*, dated 26 November 1975, published details of an executive order setting out the new generalised system of preferences which take effect from 1 January 1976. A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 456/457/7312.

Entry of merchandise. The time for comments for the new Duty Assessment by Account (DABA) has been extended by the United States authorities from 2 December 1975 to 2 February 1976. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5629.

Jamaica

Processed foods including dehydrated soups: Export Industries Encouragement Law. Processed foods, including dehydrated soups, have been declared 'approved products' for the purposes of the Export Industries Encouragement Law 1956.

A notice that consideration was being given to designate these products appeared in *Trade and Industry* dated 6 February 1975, page 330. Applications for the status of 'approved product' and

'approved manufacturer' are processed by the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation, 4 Winchester Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica (PO Box 505). It would be appreciated if firms writing to the Corporation would copy their initial correspondence to the British High Commission, Commercial Department, PO Box 393, Kingston, Jamaica. Inquiries: CRE ext. 5296.

Cayman Islands

Commonwealth Preferences. The Customs amendment law of 1975 No. 20 abolishes Commonwealth Preferences as from 18 November 1975. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Barbados

Abolition of Preferential Duty Rate. The Bill to amend the Customs Act and the Customs Tariff in order to implement the obligations of Barbados under the Convention of Lomé was laid before the House of Assembly on 16 December 1975. As this Bill introduces a single-tier tariff, Commonwealth Preferences will cease on 31 December 1975. The Act came into effect on 1 January 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Uruguay

Crude cellulose: exemption. Decree 882 of 11 November 1975 extends the exemption from all surcharges, customs and other duties on the import of crude cellulose used for the manufacture of multiply paper sacks until 1 November 1976. This exemption was first granted by decree 932/973 of 1 November 1973. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Tariff amendment. Decree 886 of 20 November 1975 amends tariff heading 98.05.89.00 to read as follows:

BTN	Item	Unit	Valuation	Duty
98.05.89.00	Other	1,000 KIC	N$8.11	84%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

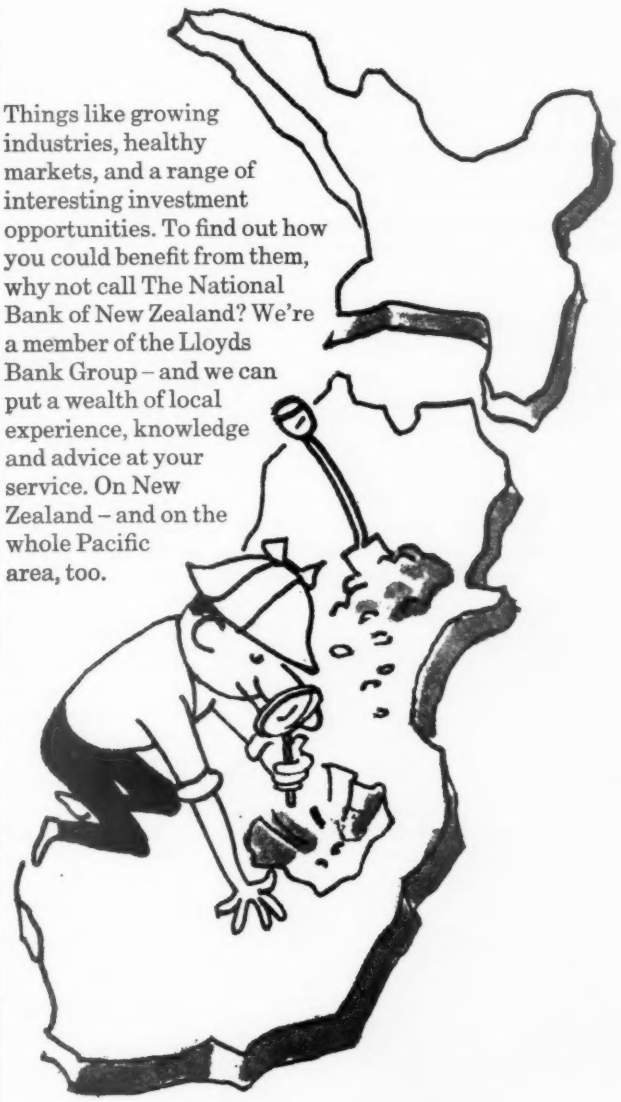
Chile

Additions to permitted imports list. Decree No. 751 (Ministry of Finance) published in Chile on 4 December 1975, adds the following items to the Permitted Imports list:

BN no.	Commodity description
18.06.01	'Chocolates' have been added. Previously it referred only to 'Confectionery'. Subject to 10,000% cif Prior Deposit
22.00.89	(New sub-heading) now permits the importation of 'any other article, not separately specified, under Chapter 22. The importation of certain alcoholic beverages in a form ready for consumption not previously specified (whisky, gin, etc.) is now allowed
24.02.89	The importation of cigarettes is now allowed
33.06.00	(New sub-heading) prepared perfumery and toilet articles, and prepared cosmetics
71.16.01	(New sub-heading) watch straps
82.09.89	Penknives may now be imported
84.40.89	Washing machines of up to 15kg dry clothes capacity may now be imported
85.15.89	(New sub-heading) others, except TV colour receiving sets. (With this sole exception all articles under heading 85.15 may be imported)
91.01.01 and 91.09.01	These subheadings which previously limited importation to certain types of watches and watchcases have been cancelled
91.01.00 and 91.09.00	New sub-headings under which the importation of any class of watches and watchcases is allowed
97.04.01	(Billiards accessories) this sub-heading is cancelled
97.04.03	(Bowling accessories) this sub-heading is cancelled
97.04.04	(Table tennis accessories) this sub-heading is cancelled
97.04.89	'Others' heading remains
97.04.02	'Coin-betting machines' have been added to this sub-heading which was previously confined to 'casino tables and roulette wheels with bearings'

In quiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

There are things worth looking into in New Zealand



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European Community News

Regional Development Fund - UK allocated further £27 million

A further £27 million towards the cost of 294 projects in the United Kingdom has been allocated from the EEC Regional Development Fund. The announcement was made by the European Commission on 18 December.

Together with the allocations announced in October, the total Fund contribution to UK projects approved in 1975 amounts to £35.9 million. This compares with the UK's 1975 share of the Fund of £35 million. It has been possible for the UK to secure more than its quota because other member states have not been granted their full shares.

Applications to the fund made by the Department of Industry in respect of national regional aids paid, or to be paid, to industrial projects in England which the Commission has now approved, are set out below. The amount of the Fund aid committed to these projects is £2.4 million. The money received will not be passed to the individual investors concerned but will be retained by the Government. These receipts will be used by the Government to go ahead with a greater total of regional investment than would otherwise have been possible.

Further decisions by the Commission to make contributions towards the cost of other industrial projects in the UK are expected shortly as a result of applications already submitted.

The 1975 allocation to the UK from the Fund is listed above.

In this second allocation of aid, the Commission have agreed that member states may draw up to 139.3 million units of account (about £58 million) from the Fund in respect of 528 projects in less prosperous regions of the Community. This brings the total amount of Fund aid committed to individual projects during 1975 to just under 300 mua, the size of the Fund in 1975.

	First allocations		Second allocations	
	Projects	Fund aid	Projects	Fund aid
England	121	3,456,600	138	8,646,493
Northern Ireland	8	1,193,511	8	6,557,794
Scotland	61	1,704,900	72	8,147,533
Wales	46	2,491,200	76	3,709,499
	236	8,846,211	294	27,061,319

Total £35,907,530
Total projects 530

Leonard Williams, deputy secretary at the Department of Energy, has been appointed director-general of energy at the EEC Commission.

Industrial projects
North West region

PROJECTS-15 ERDF AID – £432,586

Location	Company	Sector
Blackburn	Shorrock Developments Ltd.	Security Equipment Manufacturing
Denton	Snowdex Ltd.	Office Requisites Manufacturing
Liverpool	Downland Bedding Ltd.	Bedding Manufacturing
Liverpool	DRG Packaging Ltd.	Plastic Container Manufacturing
Liverpool	Meccano Ltd.	Toy Manufacturing
Liverpool	Smith and Bateson Ltd.	Reeled Paper Conversion
Manchester	C. Nicholls and Co. Ltd.	Printing
Padiham, Lancs.	Main Gas Appliances Ltd.	Domestic Appliance Manufacturing
Port Sunlight	Lever Brothers Ltd.	Washing Products Manufacturing
Prescot	Cross International Ltd.	Machine Tool Manufacturing
Runcorn	Makin and Bancroft Ltd.	Paper Tube Manufacturing
St. Helens	D. Matthews and Son Ltd.	Furniture Manufacturing
Skelmersdale	Eversheds Ltd.	Printing
Skelmersdale	Ravenshead Brick Co. Ltd.	Brick Manufacturing
Wirral (Ellesmere)	Lawco-Avistrap Ltd.	Strapping Manufacturing

South West region

PROJECTS – 9 ERDF AID – £356,120

Location	Company	Sector
Bodmin, Cornwall	Drayton Engraving and Nameplate Co. Ltd.	Nameplate Manufacturing
Camelford, Cornwall	Fidelity Radio Ltd.	Audio Manufacturing
Ivybridge, Devon	Meddings Machine Tools Ltd.	Machine Tool Manufacturing
Penryn, Cornwall	Barratts Building Ltd.	Portable Building Manufacturing
Penryn, Cornwall	Dredge and Marine Ltd.	Dredge Building
Plymouth	Stafford-Miller Ltd.	Manufacturing Chemist
South Molton, Devon	High Temperature Engineers Ltd.	Specialised Engineering
South Molton, Devon	Spanboard Ltd.	Wood Chipboard Manufacturing
Truro	W. H. Lake and Son Ltd.	Pottery Industry

Government Publications in the West

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Wine Street, Bristol, BS1 2BQ

Northern region

PROJECTS – 34 ERDF – £1,644,628

Location	Company	Sector
Alnwick	Hardy Brothers (Alnwick) Ltd.	Fishing Tackle Manufacturing
Bedlington, Northumberland	Hadrian Fashions Ltd.	Clothing Manufacturing
Bishop Auckland	Westool Ltd.	Electro-Magnetic Engineering
Blaydon, Tyne and Wear	Boyd and Co. (Metal Workers) Ltd.	Sheet Metal Work
Blaydon, Tyne and Wear	Charles Churchill Ltd.	Machine Tool Manufacturing
Carlisle	Carlisle Web Offset Ltd.	Printing
Cleator Moor, Cumbria	Ashley Accessories Ltd.	Electrical Accessory Manufacturing
Consett, Co. Durham	John H. Taylor Ltd.	Farm Equipment Manufacturing
Crook, Co. Durham	Pickford Holland and Co. Ltd.	Refractory Production
Darlington	Harvey Plating Ltd.	Electro-Plating
Darlington	R. W. Toothill Ltd.	Furniture Manufacturing
Gateshead	Armstrong Cork Co. Ltd.	Ceiling Fibre Board Manufacturing
Gateshead	Elders Walker and Co. Ltd.	Rooflight Manufacturing
Gateshead	Spartan Steel and Alloys Ltd.	Steel Plate Rolling
Leadgate, Co. Durham	Finlay Packaging Ltd.	Packaging Material Manufacturing
Middlesbrough	Richardson Brothers Ltd.	Mineral Water Manufacturing
Middlesbrough	Whessoe Ltd.	Module Manufacturing (Offshore Oil)
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	B. E. and H. L. Foundries Ltd.	Iron Castings Manufacturing
North Shields	James Hogg and Sons Ltd.	General Engineering
Seaton Carew, Co. Durham	Triphos (Northern) Ltd.	Phosphate Manufacturing
Spennymoor, Co. Durham	Tomado Ltd.	Wireworking
Stanley	Smart and Brown Lighting Ltd.	Fluorescent Light Fitting Manufacturing
Sunderland	I. J. Dewhurst Ltd.	Clothing Manufacturing
Sunderland	Maul Brothers Inc.	Engineering to the Glass Container Industry
Sunderland	Petro Chemical Pipework Ltd.	Pipework Construction
Sunderland	Sunderland Cabinet Works Ltd.	Furniture Manufacturing
Wallsend, Tyne and Wear	George Angus and Co. Ltd.	Fluid Sealing Device Manufacturing
Wallsend	Williams Brothers (Offshore) Ltd.	Module Manufacturing (Offshore Oil)
Washington, Co. Durham	Contair Engineering Ltd.	Airconditioning Equipment Manufacturing
Washington	Grundfos Manufacturing Ltd.	Circulating Pump Manufacturing
Washington	Rite Vent Ltd.	Ventilating Equipment Manufacturing
Whitehaven	Smith Brothers Ltd.	Flexible Packaging
Whitley Bay	Printers (Coast) Ltd.	Printing
Workington	Smith Brothers Ltd.	Flexible Packaging

Common scientific policy discussed by Research Council

After debating the objectives and priorities for a common science and technology policy, ministers at the EEC research council on 15 December invited the Commission to speed up its work in the field and to submit a second document on the subject before the end of 1976.

Neil Carmichael, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Industry, who was representing the UK with Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Energy, said that this country's approach was essentially a practical one. The first question in relation to any proposed project must be where it could be done best. In some cases, he said, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) would be the appropriate instrument, while in others indirect actions would be more suitable. He explained that he was in favour of the maximum association of third countries wherever there was a mutual advantage to be gained.

The UK, he went on, would follow with great care the Commission's further proposals on the dissemination of research results, bearing in mind the need for the protection of industrial property rights. Britain was particularly concerned to see the development of the co-ordination of national research programmes wherever this could improve the use of European research capacities. Mr. Carmichael also stressed the desirability of working through the Committee for Scientific and Technical Research (CREST) alone, wherever possible, in the interest of efficiency.

Ministers also discussed the overall concept of the next multi-annual Joint Research Council programme. For the UK, Mr. Carmichael pointed out that if money were no constraint this country could generally support most of the work on conventional nuclear energy, environment and resources, reference measurements, standards and techniques, and service activities. On the other hand, he explained that he was doubtful about the need for direct action on solar energy, and felt that work on fusion reactor technology should be considered only in the context of the main fusion programme: the UK thought there was no case for an intense neutron resource at the Joint Research Centre and was also opposed to further work on high temperature materials or thermo-chemical cycles for hydrogen.

Later in the discussion Mr. Carmichael pointed out that work carried out at the JRC cost between two and two and a half times as much as that done in national laboratories. This meant that the JRC ought to be even more rigorous in controlling staff numbers than member states, and that research at the JRC should be limited to those areas like nuclear safety and standards which really did need to be carried out at a community laboratory. He called for the Commission to provide details of the costs of closure on a year-by-year basis, and similarly the cost of a reduced programme in order to compare it with their current proposals.

Ministers examined in some depth the Commission's proposals for a multi-annual programme (1976-80) in the field of controlled thermo-nuclear fusion, with particular reference to the Joint European Torus (JET) project, but were unable to reach agreement. Discussions on the project, including the question of the site, will be resumed at the next council, which is tentatively planned for February.

Infrastructure projects receive £6.2m

The European Commission has also approved a grant of approximately £6.2 million in respect of 1975 expenditure for 84 infrastructure projects in England, which were submitted by the Department of the Environment.

All eligible regions are represented in the list (see below) and the approved projects cover a wide range of size and type and area. They include large projects such as the Kielder reservoir scheme in Northumberland, a development at Tees Dock and two major sewerage projects in the North West. They also include a range of smaller schemes such as the preparation and servicing of industrial sites by local authorities and New Town Corporations, access roads to such sites, and port schemes.

The rate of the grant is normally 30 per cent of eligible expenditure.

The regional distribution is as follows:

		Grant Commitment £
Northern Region	21 projects	4,083,744
North Western Region	23 projects	1,541,100
Yorkshire and Humberside Region	23 projects	401,910
East Midlands Region	5 projects	51,750
South West Region	11 projects	123,555
West Midlands Region	1 project	11,100
	84 projects	6,213,159

Individual promoting authorities are being advised about grants to their projects.

EIB loan for Shetland oil port

A loan equivalent to £16.9 million has been granted by the European Investment Bank to the Shetlands Islands Council to help finance the construction of an oil tanker harbour at Sullom Voe, a deep sea inlet on Mainland, the largest of the islands. The terms are 10 years with an interest rate of 9½ per cent.

North Sea crude oil from the group of fields linked by the Brent pipeline system and from the Ninian field about 90 miles north-east of Shetland will be carried by two submarine pipelines to Sullom Voe where, after stabilisation, it will be loaded into tankers of up to 300,000 tons dwt for shipping to refineries in the United Kingdom and on the Continent.

The project is expected to cost about £50 million. Apart from the purchase of the land, this sum includes the construction of three T-shaped loading jetties, a cargo jetty, a tug harbour, navigation aids, a temporary 'village' for the construction teams, plus permanent homes and a school. The oil industry will spend a further £400 million on related terminal facilities at Sullom Voe.

This new loan brings to £298.3 million the total of EIB loans so far granted in the United Kingdom: £32.9 million in 1973, £79.9 million in 1974 and £185.5 million in 1975.

Fred Peart rejects beef subsidy proposals

Commission proposals to phase out the system of subsidy payments to beef farmers in the EEC were rejected by Britain's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Fred Peart, during a meeting of Community agriculture ministers on 15-16 December.

Mr. Peart said that he was astonished and disappointed that the premiums idea was still being attacked as too costly and as contrary to the unity of the common agricultural market.

The ministers were holding preliminary discussions on the Commission's farm prices package for 1976-77. The proposals, which would lead to an average increase of 7.5 per cent in Community farm prices during this period, will be further discussed in the new year.

On beef, the Commission proposed an increase of 8 per cent in the guide price and of 7.5 per cent in the intervention price. The proposals would put an end to the subsidy or premium mechanism by April this year. The current system, which was introduced in 1975, provides for payment of a fixed premium of 28 units of account from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (FEOGA) on all clean cattle ready for slaughter; individual member governments may pay an additional premium – up to 52 units of accounts – from national funds.

Mr. Peart pointed out that the cost to FEOGA of the premium system in the UK in 1975 had been less than the cost of the large-scale intervention that would have been required in the aftermath of the 1974 surplus. There had been no sign of distortion of competition and the system had led to a firmer market. At the same time, beef had been available to consumers at reasonable prices, instead of being stockpiled and degraded.

Dairy products

On the Commission's proposals for milk and milk products, Mr. Peart supported the idea of a two-stage price increase in March and September. In order to reduce the current skim milk powder surplus the Commission proposes to compel its use in pig and poultry feed at a subsidised price and increase the amount given as food aid in 1976. Mr. Peart expressed reservations on the first part of the solution, which, he said, would create problems of enforcement and the prevention of fraud. He went on, 'If we are to face up to this difficult problem of disposal, we must be able to show that we are changing the existing arrangements.'

Proposals for a larger FEOGA contribution towards the general butter subsidy were welcomed by Mr. Peart and in the cereals sector, he welcomed the Commission's intention to bring the prices of the various feed grains into a more realistic relationship, agreeing to study proposals for establishing a higher price for milling wheat than for animal feed wheat.

New Zealand mutton and lamb

An interim report on the Commission's proposals for a common transitional regime for sheepmeat was also considered. At present, imports of sheepmeat are subject to the EEC tariff of 20 per cent which, under the terms of the Treaty of Accession, Britain is adopting gradually. From the beginning of this year the British tariff on New Zealand imports stands at 16 per cent.

The proposals would reduce the gap between the relatively low British prices for mutton and lamb and those which exist elsewhere in the Community. Mr. Peart said that he thought it unrealistic to eliminate differences between sheepmeat markets within the community over a short period and it was doubtful whether it would ever be in the community's interest to remove them as a whole. 'I could not subscribe,' he said, 'to any regime which could lead to unnecessary increases in our market prices, which progressively deprived our producers of adequate support, or which might unnecessarily restrict the traditional access of New Zealand lamb to our market.'

UK requests deferment of drivers' hours regulations

In a written reply to Leslie Huckfield (Nuneaton) on 18 December, John Gilbert, Minister for Transport, reported to Parliament about the meeting of EEC transport ministers in Brussels on 10 and 11 December.

He explained that the first item of importance was the British request for deferment of the application to internal traffic of EEC regulation 543/69, which deals with road transport drivers' hours. 'Although I made it quite clear,' said Dr. Gilbert, 'that it would be utterly impracticable for the UK to implement the regulation from 1 January 1976, the Council were unable to reach agreement. We received support from many quarters, however, and the Commission undertook to review our request, and those of other new member states, with a view to making proposals early in the new year.'

He added that the Department would shortly be issuing guidance to the road transport industry on the problems created by the situation.

Dr. Gilbert said that amendments to the regulations were also discussed at the meeting and the Commission undertook to make formal proposals as soon as possible. The tachograph regulation 1463/70 was not discussed.

He went on to explain that the second item of importance was the question of harmonisation of weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles. 'I emphasised strongly that it was quite impracticable and undesirable, for economic and environmental reasons, to increase the present axle weight of 10 tons in the UK. Representatives of some other countries, particularly the Federal Republic of Germany, were strongly of the same view in respect of heavy vehicle traffic on their roads.' There would be further technical studies on the whole problem.

Finally, Dr. Gilbert pointed out that 'decisions were made to extend the experimental bracket tariff system for one more year in such a way as to exclude the three new member states to carry out further studies on the proposed draft directive on commercial vehicle taxation, to extend the present community quota for goods vehicles for one year at the present level, and to accept a compromise solution for a directive on the reciprocal recognition of navigability certificates for inland waterway vessels.

European Commission support for geothermal energy research

The European Commission has now included geothermal energy among the topics on which it is seeking research proposals for support, as part of its non-nuclear research and development programme in energy. Proposals should be with the Commission by the end of January 1976.

Details of the procedure for making application for support for geothermal research can be obtained from the Department of Energy (Dr. G. Preston, tel. 01-211 5461) or from the Energy Technology Support Unit, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon (Dr. J. Garnish, tel. 0235-24141 ext. 2450).

At the end of October, the Commission invited direct application to Brussels for support of research into energy conservation and hydrogen (see *Trade and Industry*, 7 November 1975).

The remaining topics of the Commission's research and development programme cover solar energy and systems analysis. Advice on these can be obtained from the Department of Energy (Dr. G. Preston, tel. 01-211 5461).

The Community's Business Co-operation Centre

If you are looking for a business partner elsewhere in the Community, you might find him here . . .

The Commission of the European Communities set up the Business Co-operation Centre to encourage co-operation between firms in different Member States wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the Community's markets. Co-operation is defined as pooling one or more activities of partner firms; for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the Centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. All the information supplied, and any inquiries received, are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties. The Centre will search its files for a suitable partner, and, if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate a summary of the firm's requirements, with no names mentioned, to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the Community.

It is as one of the Centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the Centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, rue Archimede 17, B-1040 Brussels. The Centre makes no charge for its services.

Reference BRE/3566/322
French firm in precision mechanical engineering:

producing as prototypes or in medium-size runs sub-assemblies (tooling, equipment for test measuring and control) for research centres, laboratories or workshops for synthetic textiles, chemical, pharmaceutical and electro-mechanical industries;

ensuring the distribution, setting, installation and maintenance of packings for rotating parts.

Turnover FF 3 million, 28 employees, seeks partner in Great Britain, engaged in the same or allied activity (serving the same kind of clientele), wishing to distribute or have made or adapted, its own products in France. The partner would be able to manufacture and distribute the equipment made by the French firm in its own markets.

Reference BRE/3516/425.1
German wine wholesaler and winery, handling own and other growers' products (including some prestige lines) with own nation-wide sales network.
Products: consumption wines of all German growing areas in all quality ranges (branded wines and place wines) as well as producer bottled qualities; Austrian and French wines; *Sales:* to group buying centres of large retailers, etc, and to the wholesale trade (Germany 90 per cent, European and extra European exports 10 per cent); Production 1974: 20 million bottles, workforce 120; seeks partner in UK, preferably large firm of the beverage trade with own sales network and possibly well introduced in non-European export markets (eg USA, South America, Japan) with a view to a co-operative venture in reciprocal selling in the respective partners' markets and jointly in third country markets.
Languages: German, English, French.

Reference BRE/3500/362
Italian company manufacturing to order railway bogies and buffers of wagons, carriages and locomotives for which the main customer (80 per cent of turnover) is the Italian State Railways, with a turnover of Lire 3,500 million and 260 employees, seeks a partner in the United Kingdom. The partner should:

be a constructor of railway rolling stock (particularly wagons and bodies);

possess an advanced technology;

be larger than the Italian firm (by approximately 10:1 ratio).

The co-operation could concern the technological aspect with a view to the Italian company acquiring the partner's know-how or sharing the cost of research already initiated or to be initiated.
Languages: Italian, German, French, English

Reference BRE/1099/312.2
German manufacturer of:

stamped, pressed and drawn metal parts according to customers specifications (finishing: chamferred or assembled, all welding processes, surface treatment);
glass inforced polyester pressed parts to customers specification;
standardised programme in both materials of casings and covers in various shapes (rounded casings, covers and hoods, switchcupboards, casings for automatons).

Capacity in metal-working up to 6mm; principal customers electrical and electronics industry, medical equipment, metal and mechanical engineering and heavy vehicle industry; turnover 19 million DM, workforce 300; seeks partner in other EEC country, similar size and complementary programme (eg manufacturer with automated production of large standardised series or producer of PUR foam-parts), willing to co-operate with a view to a complementation of each others programmes or a specialisation in production according to the respective strength of each partner or alternatively build-up of a joint company for production in third countries.
Languages: German, English.

Reference BRE/3640/328
French limited company with turnover of FF 8 million and 110 employees engaged in the design, manufacture and maintenance of automatic 'vending' machines, with or without coin slots, for firms of all sizes and offices, seeks business co-operation in these products in the UK:

either with firms whose products are sold to the same clientele (eg manufacturers of small security or measuring equipment) for reciprocal sales of products;
or with manufacturers or distributors of syrups and extracts of coffee, tea, etc;
or with firms in the light engineering sector.

For the last two possibilities, the co-operation would consist of setting up a joint venture company for manufacturing and sales to distributors with access to institutions.
Languages: English, German.

Reference BRE/3605/31
Italian firm engaged in the manufacture of metal products with a turnover of Lire 3,000 million and 270 employees seeks a British partner; the various lines produced by the Italian company are as follows:

1 Churns, buckets, milk-tanks, cheese moulds, filters and industrial ladders (in aluminium and its alloys);
2 Pots and pans in stainless steel;
3 Trucks, trolleys and containers for the textile industry, etc. in communities.

The partner should be in the same sector and about the same size; the co-operation could consist of:

1 joint research into other types of containers (ie for the chemical industry);
2 reciprocal exchange of sales networks with partner's complementary kitchenware;
3 joint venture (50:50) for introduction of own respective products;
4 in the African market (Italian firm is already in negotiations for the construction of a factory in Somalia).

Languages: English, French, Italian.

Reference BRE/3618/4724
Danish private limited company engaged in the manufacture of industrial packaging products (paperboard containers and printed folding boxes), present annual production 3,000-3,500 tons, selling direct to consumer product manufacturers (90 per cent) and through papers wholesalers, four own sales representatives covering Denmark, turnover Dcr. 20 million and 75 employees, seeks co-operation partner in UK or Ireland:

either active in paperboard packaging, with a view to common product development and exchange of know-how or;

active in complementary industrial packagings (plastics, foil, etc). for reciprocal sales arrangements.

Financial participation in the Danish company excluded.
Languages: English, German, Danish.

Reference BRE/3553/314
Irish public limited company active in the production of structural steel, steel and aluminium windows and doors, internal partition systems, miscellaneous metal and ironworks; selling mainly in the Irish and Northern Irish markets to architects, engineers, builders; exports (app. 10 per cent) to UK, Middle East and East Africa; turnover £3.5 million, workforce 365; seeks partners in other EEC countries with technology know-how in the production, installation and continued maintenance of high class pipe fabrications for food processing, pharmaceutical, chemical, petro-chemical and gas industries with a view to the setting-up of a joint venture for the Irish market which is developing rapidly in the above fields.
Languages: English, French.

EEC tariff quotas 1976

Unwrought magnesium and high carbon ferro-chrome. An article in *Trade and Industry* of 17 October 1975, page 171, listed tariff quotas (other than GSP tariff quotas and those for paper, paperboard and printed products from EFTA countries) expected to be opened in 1976.

Most of these have now been agreed by the EEC Council and a comprehensive list will be published for information as soon as possible giving quantities and duties. However, importers may wish to be warned that, as discussions on the opening of tariff quotas for certain grades of unwrought magnesium and for high carbon ferro-chrome are still in progress, tariff quotas for these items will not be opened on 1 January 1976: a further announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Other quotas. EEC Council regulations for the tariff quotas for certain other metals, coniferous plywood, newsprint, silk and silk yarns, eels and dried grapes were published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L292, 12 November 1975, and those relating to imports of certain textiles and petroleum products from a number of Mediterranean countries were published in the *Official Journal* L317, 8 December 1975. (Copies of *Official Journals* may be obtained from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1.)

Amendment. There is one amendment to the list of expected duties given in the article of 17 October referred to above. The quota duty rate for men's and boys' outerwear of tariff headings 61.01 A from Cyprus should read: 'whichever is the greater of £0.1102 per kg or 4 per cent plus w.i.g. of 1.2% or £0.0330 per kg.'

Further information. General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Tariff quota for newsprint

An Order, (The Import Duties (Quota Relief) (No. 4) Order 1975, SI 1975 No. 2081), which came into operation on 1 January 1976, provides for implementation and administration of the United Kingdom's share of a number of tariff quotas opened by the EEC for 1976, including that for newsprint. The UK's share of the newsprint quota is 700,000 tonnes. There is also a community reserve of 109,000 tonnes that the UK and other member states draw upon or contribute to depending on the use of the initial shares. (Regulation (EEC) 2886/75, *Official Journal of the Communities* L292 of 12 November 1975, page 30.)

In 1975 importers were required to obtain a certificate issued by the Department of Trade if they wished to claim duty relief under the tariff quota for newsprint. Such duty-free newsprint was intended to be used only by publishers of certain periodicals, and applicants for certificates (other than publishers importing on their own behalf) were accordingly required to undertake to sell only to named customers. Under the Statutory Instrument opening this tariff quota in the UK for 1976 such certificates will no longer be required as it is now considered unnecessary to supplement the end-use control exercised by Customs. This control is designed to ensure that the use of duty-free quota newsprint is restricted as stipulated in the Customs Tariff to 'the printing of daily newspapers, weekly papers, or other periodicals of tariff heading No. 49.02 published at least 10 times per year'.

In 1976 importers wishing to claim quota relief for newsprint should follow the procedure required for the system described in paragraph 4(b) in Customs Notice 771 of March 1973 (as amended) – obtainable from any office of HM Customs and Excise. Any inquiries should be addressed to the local offices of HM Customs and Excise or International Customs Division J4, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Undertakings and returns of imports and sales from importers will no longer be required by the Department of Trade. The end use control procedures that must be followed are set out in Customs Notice 770 (as amended).

In accordance with the EEC Regulation opening this quota, the Statutory Instrument mentioned above, provides for claims for quota relief up to 30 June 1976 for newsprint that complies with the definition in the additional note to Chapter 48 of the Customs Tariff, except that it is either not watermarked or not watermarked as specified in the note. To qualify for quota relief for goods entered with Customs after that date the newsprint will have to be watermarked as specified in the additional note. It is possible that Regulation 2886/75 may be amended to allow the waiver of the watermarking criterion to be extended after 30 June but no assurance can be given that this will prove possible in the event.

General inquiries about this notice should be addressed to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ. Inquiries about how much of the quota has been used should be addressed to Tariff Quota Registration Unit, HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570. Copies of the Order and *Official Journal of the European Communities* will be available from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1.

Proposal to open a duty-free tariff quota for bananas

The Department of Trade have been notified by the EEC of a request by the Irish Government for a duty-free tariff quota for imports into Ireland during 1976 of 35,000 metric tonnes of bananas (tariff heading 08.01 B of the CCT).

The Department will wish to take account of UK interests when this request is discussed in Brussels early in 1976. If a tariff quota were opened it would be a community quota in which all member states would participate, taking into account duty-free supplies likely to be available to the community in 1976.

UK traders who might be affected by the opening of a community tariff quota for bananas are therefore invited to give their views to the Department of Trade, taking into account the existing quantitative restrictions on imports of bananas from the Dollar Area. Traders may wish to ask for a significant UK quota share or to object to the opening of a Community tariff quota. In support of their representations they should provide as much as possible of the following information in respect of 1976:

1 estimated Community demand;
2 estimated United Kingdom demand;
3 estimated duty-free supplies expected to be available for:
  a the United Kingdom market
  b the rest of the Community.

This information should be sent in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, not later than 16 January 1976.

New EC Legislation

Common Agricultural Policy

The texts of the following regulations and decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 3194/75 amending regulation (EEC) 2711/75 on the granting at a standard rate fixed in advance of private storage aid for beef (*Official Journal* L316, 6 December 1975).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 3207/75 amending for the first time regulation (EEC) 2044/75 as regards the destinations of skimmed-milk powder for which the period of validity of export certificates may be extended (*Official Journal* L318, 9 December 1975).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 3219/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1877/74 on the distillation of the by-products of wine making (*Official Journal* L320, 11 December 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 3220/75 fixing the activating prices for table wines for the period 16 December 1975 to 15 December 1976 (*Official Journal* L320, 11 December 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 3221/75 amending for the second time regulation (EEC) 1876/74 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector (*Official Journal* L320, 11 December 1975).

Seeds, plants and propagating material. Decision 75/752/EEC exempting the United Kingdom from applying directive 70/458/EEC to certain vegetable species (*Official Journal* L319, 10 December 1975).

Decision 75/756/EEC pursuant to article 17 of directive 66/402/EEC on the marketing of cereal seed (*Official Journal* L319, 10 December 1975).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 3237/75 amending regulation (EEC) 1204/72 laying down detailed rules for the application of the subsidy system for oil seeds (*Official Journal* L321, 12 December 1975).

Customs regulations

Origin rules. The *Official Journal* L321, 12 December 1975 contains the text of regulation (EEC) 3229/75 concerning the proof of the origin of products required for the application of regulations (EEC) 1598/75 and (EEC) 1957/75 on the advance implementation of certain provisions of the ACP/Lomé Convention and the interim trade arrangements for the overseas countries and territories.

EEC Draft Directive on the marketing and use of dangerous substances (R/2240/74 (ECO 255) and R/1219/75 (ECO 138))

Substances now included within the scope of this proposal include polychlrorinated terphenyls as well as polychlorinated biphenyls. The proposal also now proposes a ban on the use of monomer vinyl chloride as an aerosol propellant.

Reprints of 'T & I' articles

Reprints of *Trade and Industry* articles should be ordered within one week of publication from: Director of Publications (P1), HMSO, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN. Reprints cost £7 for 250 copies of a page or part-page, plus 50p for each additional 125 copies; carriage extra.

Export publicity for industry

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of Government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest Regional Office covering your area.

Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr T. Cooban, City House, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex Econ Plan 55472 – message to be prefixed for COI).

East Midland: Mr P. T. Brazier, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW (Tel: 46121 – Telex 37572).

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, Block D, Government Buildings, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2DF (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

London & South Eastern*: Mr R. Dean, OBE, St. Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 581261 – Telex 848216).

South Western: Mr W. J. D. Irving, MVO, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NF (Tel: 291071 – Telex 44203).

Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 33376).

North Western: Mr H. V. Tillotson, MVO, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel: 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, New St. Andrew's House, St. James Centre, Edinburgh EH1 3TD (Tel: 031-556 8400).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, Oxford House, Hills Street, Cardiff CF1 2XG (Tel: 44171 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr. E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 6DU (Tel: 01-938 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 91544).

Temporary suspension of the EEC CCT

United Kingdom requests. The Department of Trade gives notice that the United Kingdom has put forward applications to the EEC Commission for new suspensions of the CCT in respect of the goods set out in the list below. The applications, which relate to the period 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977, are for total suspensions of the CCT except for item 04.06 Natural honey, where a reduced CCT duty of 10 per cent is being requested. Providing these applications receive the unanimous agreement of the other member states of the community, UK importers will be able, from 1 July 1976, to import the goods from any source either free of duty or at a reduced rate.

If any UK companies are already manufacturing any of the products referred to below, or expect to do so shortly, so that a suspension of import duty would be detrimental to their interests, they should notify the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, not later than 16 January 1976, tel. 01-215 5515 (chemicals) and tel. 01-215 3576 (other goods).

The Department will wish to take account of UK interests in making its views known to the EEC before decisions are taken whether or not to grant these proposed suspensions.

UK producers are entitled to object where they consider that they are able to supply the whole or the greater part of the needs of the community and that their interests would be affected adversely by the loss or reduction of community preference on exports to the original community, or by reduced tariff protection in the UK, which a suspension of the CCT would entail.

As a member of the community, the UK will normally adopt fully any new CCT suspensions which are agreed by the council, except where UK producers object on the grounds that they can meet the greater part of the UK demand but not that of the community. In the latter event, the UK transitional tariff will be aligned progressively in accordance with the transitional timetable set out in Article 39 of the Treaty of Accession towards the suspended level of the CCT instead of being reduced immediately to the suspended CCT rate.

United Kingdom producers who wish to object to the granting of a proposed suspension of the CCT listed below or the immediate adoption by the UK of any of the proposed CCT suspensions, should provide as much as possible of the following information:

i estimated community (nine countries including the UK) demand in 1976 and 1977,
ii estimated UK demand in 1976 and 1977
iii UK production expected to be available in 1976 and 1977 for: (a) the UK market; (b) the rest of the community; (c) exports to other countries.

This information should be given in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, not later than 16 January 1976, tel. 01-215 5515 (chemicals) and 01-215 3576 (other goods).

Tariff heading	Description
04.06	Natural honey
16.05 A	Crabmeat, simply boiled in water and shelled, frozen, in packings of a net capacity of 2kg or more, for repacking under Customs or equivalent administrative control
28.18 C	Magnesium oxide, dead-burned but not fused, of a purity not less than 95 per cent, which contains: a not more than 0.05 per cent by weight of boron compounds expressed as B_2O_3 b not more than 3.5 per cent by weight of calcium compounds expressed as CaO c not more than 1.1 per cent by weight of silicon compounds expressed as SiO_2 d a total of not more than 0.7 per cent by weight of aluminium compounds and iron compounds expressed as Al_2O_3 and Fe_2O_3
29.02 C	o-Dichlorobenzene of a purity not less than 99 per cent by weight
29.08 AIIIc)	Sodium 4-(2-methylallyloxy) benzenesulphonate
29.39 EII	Calcitonin, salmon-type, and its salts
39.02 CXIVb)	Copolymerisation product of tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene in the form of transparent seamless tubing
51.02 AI	Monofil wholly of fluorocarbon polymer
58.07 A	Braid wholly of poly (glycollic acid) yarn
59.03	Bonded-fibre fabrics of spunbonded polyethylene man-made fibres not exceeding 110g/m² in weight, in reels
59.17 D	Yarn or tow of polytetrafluoroethylene fibres, whether or not bleached, impregnated, whether or not oiled
81.04 GI	Electrolytic manganese of a purity exceeding 99.5 per cent for use in the production of welding electrode coatings

Other member states' requests

The Department of Trade has been notified by the EEC Commission of requests for new suspensions of the CCT to operate from 1 July 1976 in respect of the goods listed below. In each case a total suspension of duty on goods from all sources has been proposed, with the exception of item 88.05 B flight simulators, type 'Link and Miles' A300B Airbus, where the request for duty free entry is restricted to simulators being exported to the original community from the new member states.

Tariff heading	Description	Applicant state
29.06 A IV	2-*iso* Propylphenol	Germany
29.14 B IV b)	Butyl pentachlorocrotonate	Germany
29.15 A IV a)	Azelaic acid	Benelux
29.16 C III	(±)-2-(3-Benzoylphenyl) propionic acid	Germany
29.22 E II	αα-Diamino-*m*-xylene	Germany
29.25 A II	(±)-2-Acetamido-3-methylbutyric acid	Germany
29.27	4-Bromophenylacetonitrile	Ireland
29.31 B	4-(Methylthio)phenol	Germany
29.35 Q	2-(2-Hydroxy-5-*tt*-octylphenyl) benzotriazole	Benelux
29.39 E	Calusterone	Italy
29.40	Peroxidase	Germany
29.44 A	Epicillin	Germany
29.44 C	Amikacin and its salts	France, Germany, Italy
	Sisomicin sulphate	Benelux
30.01 B	Albumin, human, lyophilised	Germany
30.03 A II b)	Amikacin and its salts in measured doses	Germany
38.11 C	Herbicides containing as their active ingredient *N*-phosphonomethylglycine	Benelux
38.19 T	Reaction products for the extraction of monensin salts, containing not less than 16 per cent by weight and not more than 23 per cent by weight of monensin	Germany
39.01 C VII	Colestipol hydrochloride	Benelux, France, Italy
39.02 C VII b)	Poly (vinyl chloride) film, plasticised, of a thickness not greater than 1mm and in rolls 23cm wide, for the production of sachets for human blood samples	Germany
	Poly (vinyl chloride) reflective film, of a thickness not greater than 1mm, coated on the reverse side with a pressure-sensitive adhesive	Germany
39.02 C XII	Copolymer of acrylic and methacrylic esters in the form of film of a thickness not greater than 100 microns	France
39.02 C XIV a)	Copolymer of ethylene and maleic anhydride in equimolecular proportions of which a solution in water at 15° centigrade, neutralised with ammonia and containing 50 grammes per litre, has a viscosity of not less than 15,000 centipoises and not more than 60,000 centipoises	Germany
	Polyacrylate elastomer, being a modified copolymer of butyl acrylate and ethyl acrylate, in forms covered by Chapter Note 3 (b)	Germany
44.11	Match splints	Ireland
88.05 B	Flight simulators, type 'Link and Miles' A300 Airbus	Germany
	Visual flight simulators, type 'Evans and Sutherland/Redifon'	Germany

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Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure: Total	Fixed capital expenditure: of which: Manufacturing industry	Fixed capital expenditure: of which: Distributive and service industries	Changes in stocks: Total	Changes in stocks: of which: Manufacturing industry	Changes in stocks: of which: Wholesalers	Changes in stocks: of which: Retailers	Balance of payments: Current balance*	Balance of payments: Visible balance	Balance of payments: Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970 31,472	1970 9,380	1970 2,130	1970 2,090	£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	450	325	68	−30	735	−12	747
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,048	282	766
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−5	−175	48	−11	128	−690	818
1973	110	114	107	88	125	960	396	102	334	−835	−2,295	1,460
1974	110	114	105	98	113	553	666	81	−68	−3,668	−5,234	1,566
1972 3rd qtr.	104	110	103	79	115	8	−35	6	−16	−89	−280	191
4th qtr.	107	111	105	80	124	19	13	24	−10	−11	−213	202
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	353	166	37	51	−125	−329	204
2nd qtr.	109	113	104	83	118	274	88	3	185	−63	−388	325
3rd qtr.	110	115	107	92	120	155	46	29	47	−217	−583	366
4th qtr	109	115	107	89	132	178	96	32	51	−430	−995	565
1974 1st qtr	106	113	108	97	112	−174	−31	18	−59	−845	−1,272	427
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	274	191	43	27	−948	−1,336	388
3rd qtr.	112	114	103	97	119	359	368	3	−14	−823	−1,199	376
4th qtr.	111	115	107	101	113	94	139	17	−22	−1,052	−1,427	375
1975 1st qtr.	110	116	106	93	102	−172	−4	−31	−57	−432	−867	435
2nd qtr.	107	114	103	87	100	−340	−112	−54	−52	−343	−684	341
3rd qtr.	107	112		81 p	100 p		−236 p	−25 p	60 p	−584	−972	388 **
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−3.0	−2.2	−0.8	−13.9	−7.2							
on a year earlier	−3.7	−0.3	+0.5	−13.3	−12.4							

	Industrial production: Total all industries	Industrial production: Total manufacturing industries	Personal expenditure: Retail sales	Personal expenditure: Cars: new registrations	Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted): Retail prices	Retail prices: % increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales*	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Labour (UK): Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students	Labour (UK): % of total employees	Labour (UK): Unfilled vacancies for adults	Trade: Exports	Trade: Imports
				monthly averages						mid-month count		mid-month count	On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	£ million at current prices	
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,528
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,140	9,830
1973	110.3	110.9	110.7	137.3	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,771	14,066
1974	106.3	107.8	109.9	102.7	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.9ø	2.6ø	302.6ø	15,886	21,120
1974 1st qtr.	104.4	106.5	109.8	103	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	572.9	2.5	288.6	3,490	4,762
2nd qtr.	107.9	109.4	107.3	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	579.4	2.5	313.0	3,996	5,332
3rd qtr.	108.3	109.6	111.0	109	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	621.2	2.7	310.1	4,231	5,430
4th qtr.	104.8	105.7	111.6	96	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,169	5,596
1975 1st qtr.	104.8	106.1	111.5	106	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	733.3	3.2	..	4,532	5,399
2nd qtr.	100.2	100.4	108.7	91	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	849.7	3.7	159.8	4,461	5,145
3rd qtr.	100 0	100.1	105.3	104	139.4	26.6	239.2 p	193.4 p	185.4	1008.5	4.3	135.2	4,639	5,611
1974 Dec.	103.0	104.1	110.8	87	116.9	19.1	222.5	167.6	158.0	..	..	..	1,450	1,834
1975 Jan.	105.5	107.7	113.0	109	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.8	709.0 e	3.0 e	..	1,509	1,927
Feb.	105.2	106.9	112.3	113	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	736.7	3.2	196.3	1,479	1,817
Mar.	103.6	103.8	109.4	97	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	754.1	3.2	189.7	1,544	1,655
Apr.	101.5	101.7	120.2	89	129.1	21.7	222.9	182.5	170.1	794.2	3.4	176.5	1,365	1,726
May	99.4	99.4	102.5	90	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	853.5	3.7	158.6	1,612	1,690
June	99.7	100.0	104.5	95	137.1	26.1	227.7	189.0	182.5	901.4	3.9	144.4	1,484	1,729
July	100.6	100.9	104.7	89	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.7	976.5	4.2	131.6	1,563	1,928
Aug.	98.8	98.9	104.9	92	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.5	1008.8	4.3	136.7	1,491	1,876
Sept.	100.5	100.5	106.0	130	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	185.9	1040.1	4.5	137.4	1,585	1,807
Oct.	101.2	100.8	105.3	84	142.5	25.9	251.6 p	197.0 p	187.3	1088.5	4.7	126.2	1,738	1,962
Nov.			106½ p	83	144.2	25.2	255.8 p	198.6 p	194.7 p	1125.3	4.8	117.3	1,636 p	1,927 p
Dec.										1163.1 p	5.0	114.8 p		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+0.3	−0.1	+1.2	+7.5	+3.0		+6.9	+2.8	+2.8	+11.6		−11.7	+9½	+3
on a year earlier	−6.6	−7.6	−5.5	−6.9	+25.9		+14.3	+21.6	+26.5	..		..	+19	+1½

p Provisional * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate ** Figure is projection

Overseas travel and tourism 1974 to 1975

The number of visits by overseas visitors to the United Kingdom in 1974 was 8.0 million, an increase of 3 per cent over 1973; this is a lower increase than that of 1973 over 1972, when it was nearly 8 per cent, but compares favourably with other European countries most of which experienced declines in 1974. The total expenditure on these visits (excluding international fare payments) of £837 million showed an increase of nearly 23 per cent over 1973, compared with an increase of nearly 25 per cent of 1973 over 1972. Information up to September 1975 indicates that the numbers of visitors during 1975 will be about 10 per cent above the 1974 level, and their expenditure will be above £1,000 million.

The number of visits abroad by United Kingdom residents decreased in 1974 by 9 per cent to 10.5 million, the first decrease to be recorded since the present comprehensive survey began in 1964. This total represents a return to the level of travel abroad that existed in 1972. Total expenditure abroad, at £683 million, remained practically the same as in 1973. On the evidence of information up to September 1975 it appears that during 1975 the number of visits abroad has returned to the level of 1973 and the expenditure on these visits has risen by slightly under 30 per cent.

The positive balance in 1974 of £154 million is the highest recorded and is in sharp contrast to balances of +£19 million in 1972 and −£1 million in 1973. For the first nine months of 1975 there is a positive balance of £108 million. The estimates and tables in this article are based on the International Passenger Survey of passengers entering and leaving the United Kingdom; a description of the survey is given at the end of this article. Results are also published quarterly in the Business Monitor series in 'Overseas Travel and Tourism' (M6).*

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	• fifty-three week
p provisional	period

OVERSEAS VISITORS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM 1974

Visits and expenditure (Tables 1 and 2)

The increase in earnings in 1974 was brought about by an increase in average expenditure per visit of nearly 20 per cent (despite a further small reduction in the average length of stay) combined with a 3 per cent increase in the number of visits. The increase in average expenditure was largely, if not entirely, due to price increases, as it was in 1973. The number of visits from North America continued to decline and were down by 15 per cent; the number of visits from Japan and South Africa also showed declines of 10 and 7 per cent respectively, compared with rises of 37 and 29 per cent in 1973. However there were considerable increases in the number of visits from Western Europe (a rise of 8 per cent) and from Australia and New Zealand (31 per cent).

From Western Europe† (which provided 61 per cent of the total number of visits in 1974 and 58 per cent in 1973) the greatest increases were in the number of visits from West Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and Spain, up by 16, 19, 26 and 29 per cent, respectively. Only in the case of visitors from Italy was there a decrease, by 2 per cent.

TABLE 2 Overseas visitors to the United Kingdom: number of visits and expenditure by country of permanent residence, 1973/74

Country of permanent residence	Number of visits (thousands)		Expenditure (£ million)	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
All countries	7,724	7,953	681.5	837.4
Western Europe EEC Countries – total	3,606	3,870	199.3	239.8
France	866	880	42.3	46.7
Federal Republic of Germany	835	969	49.5	62.9
Irish Republic	728	729	36.0	44.4
Italy	302	295	26.7	29.4
Belgium and Luxembourg	359	378	20.0	19.3
Netherlands	438	522	19.3	30.2
Denmark	77	97	5.5	6.9
Western Europe Non-EEC Countries – total	851	950	81.6	113.0
Norway, Sweden and Finland	248	279	20.2	27.7
Spain	154	199	17.5	24.2
Switzerland	203	219	17.9	22.8
Others	247	252	26.0	38.4
Eastern Europe	46	48	2.6	3.3
Non-European Countries – total	3,220	3,085	398.0	481.2
USA	1,576	1,342	157.8	164.6
Canada	483	413	47.6	50.5
Japan	138	124	14.2	13.4
Australia and New Zealand	243	319	48.7	69.7
South Africa	147	137	23.2	23.5
Latin America	117	152	17.1	24.4
Others	516	598	89.4	135.1

Western European visitors were responsible for 42 per cent of the £837 million spent in the United Kingdom in 1974, North America for 26 per cent and Australia and New Zealand for 8 per cent. (Comparable percentages in 1973 were 41, 30 and 7 per cent.) This expenditure includes the cost of accommodation, meals, fares within this country and souvenirs, gifts, etc. It does not include expenditure on large items, such as cars, which are not taken out by the visitors as personal baggage when they leave the country (these items are included in the United Kingdom Trade Statistics and amount to

* Note: 1974 figures appearing in this article include revisions to those relating to the Irish Republic. These figures will also be included in Business Monitor M6 Overseas Travel and Tourism 3rd Quarter 1975 (obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, quarterly reports, 70p per annum, annual supplement, 30p).

† Note: See the revised geographical divisions in the Notes and Definitions at the end of this article, in particular the inclusion in Western Europe of the Irish Republic, Iceland, Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus, all shown in previous annual articles under Sterling Area Countries.

TABLE 1 Number of visits, earnings and expenditure, 1968-74

	Visits				Earnings		Expenditure		Balance
	To the UK by overseas visitors		Overseas by UK residents						
	Thousands	Percentage increase on previous year	Thousands	Percentage increase on previous year	£ million	Percentage increase on previous year	£ million	Percentage increase on previous year	£ million
1968	4,828	12.6	7,269	0.9	282	19.9	271	−1.2	11
1969	5,821	20.6	8,083	11.2	359	27.2	324	19.8	35
1970	6,692	15.0	8,482	4.9	432	20.3	382	17.8	50
1971	6,973	4.2	9,426	11.1	486	12.5	439	14.9	47
1972	7,167	2.8	10,553	12.0	546	12.3	527	19.9	19
1973	7,724	7.8	11,522	9.2	681 r	24.7 r	682	29.4	−1 r
1974	7,953	3.0	10,489	−9.0	837	22.9	683	0.2	154

r = Revised.

TABLE 3 Overseas visitors: average length of stay in the United Kingdom and average expenditure per day and per visit by area of permanent residence and by purpose of visit, 1968-74

			Analysis by area of permanent residence				Analysis by purpose of visit			
		Total*	Western Europe EEC Countries†	Western Europe Non-EEC Countries	North America	Other Countries	Holiday	Business	Visiting friends and relatives	Miscellaneous
Average length of stay (days)	1968	16.3	14.7		14.0	33.8	13.7	7.6	19.0	30.3
	1969	15.5	14.2		12.5	30.1	12.8	7.1	18.4	28.7
	1970	15.0	13.2		12.2	28.7	11.9	7.1	18.6	27.1
	1971	14.7	12.5		12.5	27.8	12.0	7.2	18.5	30.0
	1972	14.6	10.6	16.9	12.7	28.1	11.9	7.0	18.5	29.6
	1973	14.2 r	10.3	16.1	12.9	26.9	12.1	7.7	18.9 r	24.9 r
	1974	13.9	9.9	15.8	13.4	24.8	12.0	7.2	18.3	24.8
Average expenditure per day (£)	1968	3.4	2.8		5.3	3.1	4.3	8.3	2.3	1.9
	1969	3.9	3.0		6.1	3.5	4.8	9.5	2.5	2.2
	1970	4.2	3.4		6.2	3.9	5.1	10.6	2.9	2.5
	1971	4.7	3.9		6.5	4.5	5.5	11.2	3.2	2.5
	1972	5.1 r	4.3	4.8	6.8	4.8	6.0 r	12.4 r	3.3 r	3.0
	1973	6.1	5.2	5.9	7.7	6.0	7.1 r	12.7	3.9 r	4.0 r
	1974	7.5	6.1	7.5	9.1	7.9	8.1	16.4	4.9	5.0
Average expenditure per visit (£)	1968	56.3	40.8		74.1	104.7	58.7	63.1	42.8	56.4
	1969	60.1	43.1		75.9	105.5	61.3	67.2	46.2	63.6
	1970	63.3	45.7		75.5	112.0	60.7	75.7	53.1	67.8
	1971	69.1	48.4		81.7	125.2	66.1	80.5	60.0	75.7
	1972	75.2 r	45.1	80.5	86.6	134.0	71.8 r	86.9 r	61.8 r	88.3 r
	1973	87.1	53.4	95.3	99.2	161.5	85.2	98.0	72.7	98.3
	1974	104.2	60.2	118.5	121.9	195.2	97.4	118.2	90.6	124.2

r = Revised. * Including the Irish Republic. † Including the Irish Republic from 1972.

approximately £15 million). Also excluded are fares paid abroad by overseas visitors to British air and sea carriers and their expenditure on board; these are estimated to have amounted to £239 million in 1974 compared with £192 million in 1973.

Length of stay and average expenditure per visit (Table 3)

The average length of stay of overseas visitors to the United Kingdom continued its downward trend. It has fallen from 19.8 days in 1964 to 14.2 days in 1973 and 13.9 days in 1974. A slight rise in average length of stay by North American visitors, continuing a trend started in 1970, was more than offset by a corresponding fall for that of visitors from Western Europe. The average length of stay by visitors from other countries declined by 8 per cent (to 24.8 days) but these visitors still remained nearly twice as long as those from Western Europe and North America. The average length of stay for holiday purposes and for 'miscellaneous reasons' remained virtually the same as for 1973 but for business purposes and for visiting friends and relatives declined by 6 and 3 per cent, respectively.

The average expenditure per day per visitor in 1974 increased by about 23 per cent, that is by more than the general increase in prices during the period.

The average expenditure per visit increased by nearly 20 per cent in 1974 compared with 16 per cent in 1973 over that of 1972. North America and non-EEC Countries of Western Europe showed higher percentage increases for average expenditure per visit than in 1973 over 1972, while EEC Countries showed a lower percentage increase than in the previous year. 'Other Countries' reflected practically the same rate of increase.

Purpose of visit (Table 4)

Forty-six per cent of overseas visitors to the United Kingdom in 1974 came for a holiday, 21 per cent came on business, 19 per cent stayed with friends and relatives, 3 per cent came to study and the remaining 11 per cent came for miscellaneous reasons which included attendance at sporting events, for health, religious or other purposes, together with visits for more than one purpose where none predominated. The proportions in the different categories are virtually the same as in 1973. The total expenditure of £837 million by overseas visitors in 1974 included £363 million on holidays, £200 million on business visits and £137 million on visits to friends and relatives (43 per cent, 24 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively, compared with 47 per cent, 22 per cent and 16 per cent in 1973).

TABLE 4 Number of visits of overseas visitors analysed by area of permanent residence and purpose of visit, 1974

Thousands

Area of permanent residence	Total	Holiday	Of which inclusive tours	Business	Visiting friends and relatives	Miscellaneous
All Countries	7,953	3,678	..	1,686	1,504	1,085
Western Europe EEC Countries*	3,141	1,412	387	778	519	432
Western Europe Non-EEC Countries	950	383	123	258	146	163
North America	1,755	906	306	264	362	224
Other Countries	1,379	693	137	241	255	190
Irish Republic	729	284	..	146	223	77

* Excluding Irish Republic.

Inclusive tours

About 28 per cent of holiday visitors (excluding visitors from the Irish Republic), almost the same proportion as in 1973, came to the United Kingdom on inclusive tours in 1974. (This contrasts with the 59 per cent of United Kingdom holiday makers who went abroad on inclusive tours in 1974.) The proportions from North America and Western Europe were 34 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively (34 per cent and 25 per cent in 1973).

Method of travel

About 63 per cent of overseas visitors left the United Kingdom by air in 1974 compared with 64 per cent in 1973 and 67 per cent in 1972. Travel by sea increased to 35 per cent (34 per cent in 1973 and 31 per cent in 1972). Traffic across the Irish Border accounted for the remaining 2 per cent. The proportions of North American residents leaving by air and sea in 1974 were 83 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively; the proportions for Western European residents were 51 per cent and 49 per cent.

These figures show little change from 1973 patterns. They reflect the continuing decline in the numbers of visitors from the United States with a 15 per cent decrease in the air sector and 13 per cent decrease in the sea sector. Most countries showed small increases in the number of visitors leaving by both air and sea; significant percentage increases were visitors from Australia and New Zealand up by 17 per cent (air) and by 97 per cent (sea), from Spain up by 32 per cent (air) and by 17 per cent (sea), the Netherlands up by 6 per cent (air) and by 34 per cent (sea) and the Federal Republic of Germany up by 15 per cent (air) and by 17 per cent (sea). Visitors by sea include all those travelling across the English Channel and the North Sea and will include a proportion of visitors particularly from further countries who arrived in Europe by air.

Seasonal pattern*

The proportion of visitors in each quarter was virtually the same as in 1973 and 1972 (ie 15 per cent in the first quarter followed by 25 per cent, 39 per cent and 20 per cent). Only in the case of visits for the purpose of business is the above overall pattern different, showing a more even spread throughout the year (ie 21 per cent in the first quarter followed by 27 per cent, 26 per cent and 27 per cent).

* Note: (Quarterly information is given in the Business Monitor M6.)

The third quarter still accounts for nearly two-fifths of visitors, with more than half the holiday visits from all areas occurring in this period.

VISITS ABROAD BY UNITED KINGDOM RESIDENTS 1974

Visits and expenditure (Table 1)

The virtually unchanged expenditure by United Kingdom residents going abroad reflected a 9 per cent reduction in numbers of visits and a 12 per cent reduction in visitor nights, offsetting a 10 per cent increase in average expenditure per visit. Travel abroad in 1974 was affected by the three day week, the increase in fuel costs and the failure of certain travel companies.

The £683 million spent abroad included over £8 million for rail transport abroad on journeys to and from foreign destinations. It did not include fares paid in the United Kingdom by United Kingdom residents to foreign air and sea carriers, which are estimated to have been £209 million in 1974 (£164 million in 1973).

Countries visited (Table 5)

Visits for most countries reflected the overall decline in visits abroad by United Kingdom residents. The only Western European countries to show any significant increases in the number of visits were France up by 14 per cent in 1974 over 1973, Belgium and Luxembourg up 12 per cent, and Denmark up 11 per cent. Visits to the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Irish Republic showed fractional increases. Otherwise all other Western European countries recorded large decreases, in contrast to 1973 when only Italy and Switzerland showed a reduction in United Kingdom visitors over 1972. The main decreases were to Austria down 43 per cent, Greece down 38 per cent, Portugal down 30 per cent and Yugoslavia down 28 per cent. Spain remained the major tourist destination with over 2 million visitors from the United Kingdom in 1974 but this was a decrease of 21 per cent from 1973. Although the numbers of visits made to non-European countries were much smaller than to European countries there were increases to practically all destinations outside Europe, with visits to British West Indies, up by 21 per cent, showing the largest change.

TABLE 5 Visits abroad by United Kingdom residents: number of visits and expenditure abroad by main country visited, 1973/74

	Number of visits (thousands)		Expenditure (£ million)	
Main country visited	1973	1974	1973	1974
All Countries	11,522†	10,489†	682.4	683.4
Western Europe EEC Countries	5,285	5,392	254.7	268.0
France	1,577	1,794	73.2	73.8
Federal Republic of Germany	624	624	30.9	33.0
Irish Republic	1,311	1,313	58.3	66.8
Italy	854	688	56.8	52.3
Belgium and Luxembourg	372	415	14.3	16.7
Netherlands	465	467	16.3	19.5
Denmark	83	92	4.9	5.9
Western Europe Non-EEC Countries	4,896	3,739	310.4	277.8
Austria	447	256	28.8	19.0
Gibraltar/Malta/Cyprus	213	198	16.4	18.1
Greece	368	230	26.7	18.7
Portugal	231	161	17.6	14.1
Norway, Sweden and Finland	208	191	16.1	15.7
Spain	2,775	2,203	162.5	154.5
Switzerland	367	289	25.4	21.7
Yugoslavia	224	162	13.7	11.9
Others	63	48	3.3	4.0
Eastern Europe	160	157	10.7	10.6
Non-European Countries	976	992	106.6	127.1
USA	263	266	29.5	34.4
Canada	146	154	12.8	15.2
British West Indies	63	76	7.6	9.3
Australia and New Zealand	44	49	7.9	10.6
Others	460	448	48.8	57.6

† Including cruise holidays not allocated to area (205,000 in 1973 and 209,000 in 1974).

Length of stay and average expenditure per visit (Table 6)

The average length of stay for visits abroad in 1974 was 13.4 days showing the continuing downwards trend that started in 1969 and temporarily halted in 1973. This decrease is reflected in visits to the EEC countries and in all purposes of visit. The average expenditure per visit and per day rose in all areas for all purposes (on average by about 13 per cent) largely as a result of increased prices.

TABLE 6 United Kingdom residents: average length of stay outside the United Kingdom and average expenditure per day and per visit by area visited and by purpose of visit, 1968-74

			Analysis by area visited				Analysis by purpose of visit			
		Total*	Western Europe EEC Countries†	Western Europe Non-EEC Countries	North America	Other Countries	Holidays	Business	Visiting friends and relatives	Miscellaneous
Average length of stay (days)	1968	14.9	13.4		36.8	34.8	14.0	9.8	20.6	27.6
	1969	14.9	13.3		33.9	33.6	13.9	9.3	20.6	27.1
	1970	14.8	13.1		34.3	35.3	13.8	9.1	22.0	27.1
	1971	14.2	12.3		31.8	35.4	13.3	9.4	21.3	23.7
	1972	13.9	10.5	12.9	31.1	34.1	12.8	9.4	20.5	24.8
	1973	13.9	10.9	13.0	29.1 r	33.1	12.9	8.7	21.2	23.9 r
	1974	13.4	9.3	13.3	29.4	35.5	12.3	8.2	21.3	22.4
Average expenditure per day (£)	1968	2.3	2.4		1.9	1.9	2.4	4.8	1.2	1.2
	1969	2.5	2.6		2.2	2.4	2.7	5.3	1.3	1.4
	1970	2.9	3.1		2.6	2.4	3.1	6.0	1.5	1.6
	1971	3.2	3.4		2.9	2.5	3.3	6.3	1.7	1.8
	1972	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.0	2.7	3.7 r	7.0 r	1.8 r	1.8 r
	1973	4.2	4.2	4.8	3.5	3.0	4.6	7.9	2.0	2.1
	1974	4.8	5.0	5.5	4.0	3.3	5.2	9.7	2.3	2.4
Average expenditure per visit (£)	1968	34.3	32.3		70.0	66.1	33.5	47.5	24.8	33.0
	1969	37.8	34.8		73.2	80.7	37.7	48.9	26.9	38.6
	1970	43.1	40.8		88.5	84.8	42.6	54.3	34.0	42.5
	1971	45.3	42.1		92.2	88.4	44.2	59.0	35.8	43.1
	1972	49.0	39.7	49.4	93.1	92.8	47.8 r	65.9 r	37.4 r	47.9 r
	1973	58.3	45.4	62.4	103.1	100.3	59.8	68.6	43.4	49.9
	1974	63.9	46.3	72.8	117.4	117.7	64.1	79.5	49.1	52.9

r = Revised. * Including the Irish Republic. † Including the Irish Republic from 1972.

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Purpose of visit (Table 7)

In 1974, 64 per cent of United Kingdom residents going abroad were going on holiday, compared with 68 per cent in 1973; 16 per cent went on business visits and 15 per cent went on visits to friends and relatives, compared with 14 per cent for each in 1973; the remaining 5 per cent went for other reasons, including study, the same as in 1973.

TABLE 7 Number of visits of United Kingdom residents analysed by area visited and purpose of visit, 1974

Thousands

Area visited	Total	Holiday	Of which inclusive tours	Business	Visiting friends and relatives	Miscellaneous
All Countries*	10,489	6,729	..	1,719	1,577	464
Western Europe EEC Countries†	4,079	2,268	738	965	571	275
Western Europe Non-EEC Countries	3,739	3,201	2,493	299	174	64
North America	420	124	9	93	188	16
Other Countries	729	346	185	157	194	31
Irish Republic	1,313	580	..	204	450	79

* Including cruise holidays not allocated to area (209,000 in 1974).
† Excluding Irish Republic.

Inclusive tours

In 1974 the percentage of holiday makers going abroad from this country on inclusive tours decreased to 59 per cent (excluding visits to the Irish Republic) from 67 per cent in 1973 and 66 per cent in 1972. This was directly associated with the failures of certain tour operators during the year. The vast majority of these went to Western Europe (89 per cent, the same as in 1973) and there was an increase from 4 per cent to 6 per cent of those who went on cruises, which are not allocated to any area. Eighty-four per cent of all holiday makers on inclusive holidays travelled by air in 1974, compared with 87 per cent in 1973.

Method of travel

In 1974 there was a marked swing from air to sea travel; 62 per cent of United Kingdom residents travelling abroad travelled by air compared with 67 per cent in 1973 and 1972, and 35 per cent travelled by sea (including 2 per cent going on cruises) compared with 30 per cent in 1973. Travel across the Irish border accounted for the remaining 3 per cent in each year. Visits in 1974 to Western Europe EEC countries by air decreased by 10 per cent and visits by sea increased by 11 per cent compared with rises of 7 and 9 per cent, respectively for air and sea in 1973 over 1972. Visits to Western Europe non-EEC countries showed a larger decrease in air travel, 24 per cent, compared with a rise of 14 per cent in 1973 over 1972, and a decrease in those travelling by sea of 20 per cent.

Seasonal pattern

The spread through the quarters of visits abroad by United Kingdom residents in 1974 was almost identical to that of 1973 (14, 25, 43 and 17 per cent for the four quarters of 1974). As with overseas visitors to the United Kingdom the only variation in this pattern was shown in visits abroad for business purposes which were 22, 28, 24 and 27 per cent, respectively, in 1974.

Overseas travel and tourism for the first nine months of 1975 compared with 1974 (Tables 8 and 9)

The large increase in overseas visitors to the United Kingdom in the first quarter in 1975, compared with the previous year, is mainly due to the early Easter in 1975 (the end of March, as opposed to mid-April in 1974). Visits both to and from the United Kingdom in the first nine months of the year show increases over the same period in 1974 and these increases are reflected in all areas except that of visitors from the United States which has remained about the same. However, this indicates some halt to the decline in visitors from the United States which has been taking place over the last three years.

Visits abroad by United Kingdom residents show increases of 10.8, 10.6 and 9.7 per cent for the first, second and third quarters over the same periods in 1974 as opposed to the decreases of 6.6, 10.8 and 7.7 per cent, respectively, for 1974 over 1973. Indications are that during the whole of 1975 the number of visits abroad by United Kingdom residents will have been much the same as the record level of 11.5 million seen in 1973.

TABLE 9 Number of visits to the United Kingdom by overseas visitors and number of visits abroad by United Kingdom residents analysed by area, 1974/75

Thousands

	Visits to the UK by overseas visitors			Visits overseas by UK residents		
Visits from/to	Jan.-Sept. 1974	Jan.-Sept. 1975 p	Percentage change	Jan.-Sept. 1974	Jan.-Sept. 1975 p	Percentage change
All Countries*	5,732	6,554	+14.3	7,616†	8,506†	+11.7
Western Europe EEC Countries*	2,542	2,957	+16.3	3,457	3,959	+14.5
Western Europe Non-EEC Countries	709	873	+23.1	3,101	3,376	+8.9
North America	1,404	1,451	+3.4	327	363	+11.1
Other Countries	1,077	1,273	+18.2	571	683	+19.5

P = Provisional. * Excluding Irish Republic.
† Including cruises not allocated to country.

NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

The International Passenger Survey

The system of interviewing passengers was fully described in the *Board of Trade Journal* for 23 August 1963. The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (acting on behalf of the Department of Industry as well as meeting its own requirements) interviews a stratified and random sample of passengers entering and leaving this country on all the principal air and sea routes (other than those to the Irish Republic) to obtain information about international migration, tourism, and the contribution of travel expenditure to the balance of payments. The interviews are voluntary and anonymous; nearly 300,000 successful interviews were made during 1974 on the routes surveyed.

About 80 per cent of the passengers entering and leaving the United Kingdom, other than those on routes to and from the Irish Republic, travel on routes which were covered by the survey and at times when passengers were interviewed. Estimates are made for non-surveyed times and routes, the numbers travelling on which are known. Information about the numbers and expenditure of passengers travelling between the Irish Republic and the United Kingdom is obtained from the Central Statistics Office of the Irish Republic.

Estimates are included also for expenditure by visitors to the United Kingdom in transit, and for overseas expenditure by British passengers on cruises or on excursion vessels making day trips to the Continent.

TABLE 8 Number of visits, earnings and expenditure, 1974/75*

	Visits				Earnings		Expenditure		Balance
	To the UK by overseas visitors		Overseas by UK residents†						
	Thousands	Percentage increase on previous year	Thousands	Percentage increase on previous year	£ million	Percentage increase on previous year	£ million	Percentage increase on previous year	£ million
1974 1st qtr.	1,218	7.0	1,519	−6.6	123	27.3	95	1.9	+28
2nd qtr.	1,997	2.3	2,664	−10.8	195	23.1	160	−0.9	+36
3rd qtr.	3,115	0.7	4,516	−7.7	313	16.1	300	−2.7	+13
4th qtr.	1,624	5.6	1,789	−11.4	206	31.5	129	7.6	+77
1975 1st qtr. p	1,472	20.9	1,684	10.8	171	38.6	122	28.0	+49
2nd qtr. p	2,110	5.7	2,947	10.6	241	23.3	205	28.1	+36
3rd qtr. p	3,564	14.4	4,954	9.7	410	31.0	387	29.1	+23

p = Provisional. * Including Irish Republic. † Including cruises.

Sampling scheme

During 1974 on the long air routes, nearly 4 per cent of the incoming and outgoing passengers at Heathrow Airport were interviewed; on the short air routes 1 per cent of outgoing and ⅓ per cent of incoming passengers were interviewed.

At smaller airports the percentage sampled generally varied between ½ per cent and 2 per cent in the winter months (1st and 4th quarters) and between ⅓ per cent and 1 per cent in the summer months according to the airport concerned, but at Prestwick 7 per cent of outgoing and 4 per cent of incoming passengers were interviewed for most of the year. The sample weights are adjusted for known traffic densities, and appropriate allowance made for traffic not covered.

When the short sea routes are sampled about ⅓ per cent of summer and ½ per cent of winter traffic is interviewed. In a two-stage sample, cross-Channel boats are sampled in proportion to the weight of traffic they are expected to handle, and a predetermined number of passengers is interviewed on each selected boat. North Sea routes were covered in the second and third quarters when there was a ½ per cent sample. One-third per cent of the summer and ½ per cent of the winter traffic on the Hovercraft flights were interviewed covering the last three quarters of the year.

On the long sea routes every liner or other ship having more than 200 passengers arriving or more than 100 passengers departing is covered. One ship in every two of other ships carrying more than 12 passengers on these routes is also covered. In total nearly 7 per cent of outgoing and 4 per cent of incoming passengers are sampled on the long sea routes. A larger proportion of passengers leaving the country on the long routes is sampled in order to provide information which would otherwise not be available about sex, age, marital status and occupation of emigrants from this country.

Migration

The International Passenger Survey defines a 'migrant' as a resident of the United Kingdom leaving, or a resident of a country outside the British Isles arriving in, the United Kingdom who has stated the intention of remaining in that country for 12 months or more. These data are analysed by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys enabling that Department to estimate gross and net migration into and out of England and Wales, and in conjunction with the Registrar General for Scotland and Northern Ireland, migration for the United Kingdom.

Statistics obtained from the survey are currently made available in a series of publications by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, relating to population and migration. These publications have recently been reorganised. Each year an International Migration Volume is produced and contains more information on migration than previously given in the Registrar General's Statistical Review Part II. The volume gives various statistics on migrants relating to sex, age, marital condition, occupation, birthplace, country of last/next residence, etc.

The former Quarterly Returns published by the Registrar General have been replaced by Population Trends booklets containing statistics and articles on a variety of population topics including migration.

A newly introduced series of Migration Monitors are published as and when data become available. They give an indication of changes in certain aspects of migration for successive quarters of the year. These Monitors are available from Information Branch (Dept. M), Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, St. Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP.

Estimates of fares

The International Passenger Survey yields estimates of the fares earned by British airlines and sea carriers from visitors to the United Kingdom, and fares paid by United Kingdom residents to overseas carriers. The estimates of air fares are based on information given by passengers about the flight number, the airport of origin or destination, the class of travel, and the types of fare paid. On sea routes, the passenger is asked directly the fares paid, because of the considerable variations within each class of travel, but estimates are made on similar lines as for air travel when the passenger does not know the actual fare paid.

Coverage

Earnings and expenditure figures exclude payments for air and sea travel to and from the United Kingdom though they include small amounts in respect of international rail fares. Earnings do not include the personal export of cars purchased by visitors to this country estimated to amount to about £15 million a year, which are included in the *Overseas Trade Statistics*; also excluded are overseas visitor's purchases on British carriers or at the duty free shops at British airports, estimated at about £6 million a year. Earnings include estimates of the expenditure of overseas visitors in transit or on day trips to this country. Similarly expenditure estimates include the expenditure of United Kingdom residents going abroad on day trips or cruises. A consequence of the inclusion of these estimates is that the earnings and expenditure figures do not exactly correspond to the figure for numbers of visits, which exclude visitors in transit and – so far as possible – those on day trips.

Migrants and persons travelling overseas to take up employment together with military personnel, merchant seamen and airline personnel travelling on duty, are excluded.

Definitions

The numbers are numbers of visits, not numbers of visitors.

The count of visits relates to those ending during each period, ie to British residents returning to this country, and to overseas residents leaving it.

'Overseas visitor' means a person who, being permanently resident in a country outside the United Kingdom, visits the United Kingdom for a period of less than 12 months. Included are United Kingdom citizens resident overseas for 12 months or more coming home on leave.

Visits abroad similarly are visits for a period of less than 12 months by people permanently resident in the United Kingdom (who may be of foreign or Commonwealth nationality).

Visits for miscellaneous purposes include visits for the purpose of study, to attend sporting events, for health, religious or other purposes, together with visits for more than one purpose where none predominates (eg visits both on business and on holiday).

In the calculation of the average expenditures per visit and per day the following adjustments have been made:

a Number of visits, stay and expenditure of
  i visitors in transit of less than one day
  ii United Kingdom residents on cruise holidays
  iii Day trippers across the Irish border and on special excursion boats
  have been excluded.
b The estimates for rail fares have been excluded from earnings and expenditure.

Average length of stay covers:

a Overseas visitors – stay within the United Kingdom.
b Residents of United Kingdom – time spent, including journey outside the United Kingdom.

An inclusive tour is a holiday for which the tourist is unable to distinguish (within the total cost of the visit) the pre-paid fare to and from destination and cost of accommodation.

Areas

The geographical divisions are:

i Western Europe EEC: Belgium, Denmark (including Faeroe Islands and Greenland), Federal German Republic, France, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands.
ii Western Europe Non-EEC: Andorra, Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Gibraltar, Greece, Iceland, Malta, Norway, Portugal (including Azores and Madeira), Spain (including Canary Islands, Balearic Islands and Spanish Ports in North Africa), Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the Vatican City, Yugoslavia.
iii Eastern Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Roumania, USSR.
iv North America: USA and Dependencies, Canada.
v Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama (including Canal Zone), Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.
vi British West Indies: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Activity in the chemicals industry

Sales and output

The volume of sales of chemicals as a whole fell sharply in the second quarter of 1975 although there was some variation between product groups. Sales of synthetic resins and plastics materials were unchanged suggesting a halt to the decline in demand, while sales of synthetic rubber recovered a good deal. On the other hand sales of inorganic chemicals fell even more sharply in the second quarter, probably reflecting the effect of destocking by customer industries, and sales of toilet preparations also declined sharply, perhaps in response to a decline in consumer demand. Sales of the other consumer products, paints, soaps and pharmaceuticals, were broadly unchanged.

There is some evidence that the decline in chemicals output (from the peak in the third quarter of 1974) might have ended in the third quarter of this year when the index of production for the industry as a whole rose by nearly 3 per cent. This recovery could, however, merely signify that destocking has come to an end. It seems unlikely that there will be a substantial recovery later in the year and there is general agreement that output in 1975 as a whole may be down by about 10 per cent on 1974.

Trade

The volume of chemical exports fell sharply in the third quarter of 1975 to give an average level in the first three quarters of this year some 16 per cent below the corresponding period in 1974. The fall in export volume seems to have been concentrated in general chemicals and fertilisers. There was a substantial rise in the volume of imports of chemicals in the third quarter of 1975 perhaps reflecting the end to destocking; despite this rise import volume in the first three quarters of this year was 26 per cent below that in the same period in 1974 – a much larger fall than for exports. In current price terms exports have continued at a level well in excess of imports thus providing a substantial UK trade balance.

Prices

In the third quarter of the year there was a further slowing down in the rate of increase in output prices which, together with another fall in import prices (unit values) of chemicals raises some hopes for a weakening in the rate of increase in inflation. On the other hand prices of materials and fuels purchased by the chemicals industry, after showing little change in the first half of the year, rose by 3 per cent in the third quarter.

Employment

Although the unadjusted figures show a slight rise in employment between June and September 1975 the level at the end of the third quarter was some 14,000 below that in September 1974. It seems very likely that the trend in employment has continued downwards with possibly the toilet preparation industry showing the largest percentage decline.

Capital expenditure

There has been a sustained recovery in the volume of investment from the beginning of 1974. In the first half of 1975 investment rose by 16 per cent compared with the second half of 1974 and the provisional indications are that there was a further substantial increase in the third quarter of 1975.

TABLE 1 Sales of principal products and output

Index numbers 1970 = 100

Products of	1968 MLH	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974 (a)	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1975 (a) 1st qtr. (b)	2nd qtr. (b)	3rd qtr.	% change on a year earlier: 1975 2nd qtr.	1974	Average annual rate of increase: 1968/74
General chemicals	271	79	83	90	97	100	104	110	134	152	154	160	145	134	115	..	−25.3	13.4	9.1
Inorganic chemicals	271/1	95	97	101	101	100	99	99	110	121	123	122	117	115	92	..	−25.2	10.0	3.1
Organic chemicals	271/2	69	73	81	94	100	107	121	155	181	184	190	170	141	125	..	−32.1	16.8	14.4
Other chemicals	271/3	78	84	92	97	100	106	108	137	155	156	167	148	147	128	..	−17.9	13.1	9.1
Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	272	67	70	77	89	100	101	106	125	134	132	135	133	134	133	..	0.8	7.2	9.7
Toilet preparations	273	95	98	98	97	100	106	113	131	146	135	153	150	149	137	..	1.5	11.4	6.9
Paint	274	85	89	93	95	100	108	116	132	133	131	134	127	126	126	..	−3.8	0.8	6.1
Soap and detergents	275	97	96	98	101	100	100	109	112	121	114	121	124	112	113	..	−0.9	8.0	3.6
Synthetic resins and plastics materials	276/1	71	77	89	102	100	101	111	141	143	151	153	120	109	109	..	−27.8	1.4	8.2
Synthetic rubber	276/2	64	68	77	93	100	91	100	130	120	123	105	128	93	103	..	−16.3	−7.7	7.7
Dyestuffs and pigments	277	80	80	88	93	100	97	107	111	116	114	124	118	100	102	..	−10.5	4.5	4.7
Fertilisers	278	93	101	102	95	100	106	87	96	100	111	100	84	93	98	..	−11.7	4.1	−0.3
Other chemical industries	279	92	98	97	97	100	103	109	119	120	113	119	125	118	112	..	−0.9	0.8	3.6
Index of production																			
Chemical and allied industries	Order V	78.8	83.4	89.9	95.0	100.0	102.2	108.1	121.6	127.6	128.2	131.7	124.7	118.2	112.5	115.7	−12.3	4.9	6.0
Total all manufacturing industry		89.2	89.8	95.7	99.4	100.0	99.7	102.3	110.9	107.8	109.4	109.6	105.7	106.1	100.4	100.1	−8.2	−2.8	2.0

(a) Seasonally adjusted. (b) Provisional.

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TABLE 2 Imports of the chemical industry: current prices

£ million

	Inorganic chemicals	Organic chemicals	Other chemicals	Pharm. chems. and preps.	Toilet prepara-tions	Paint	Soap and deter-gents	Synthetic resins	Synthetic rubber	Dyestuffs and pigments	Ferti-lisers	Products of other chemical industries	Total
	271/1	271/2	271/3	272	273	274	275	276/1	276/2	277	278	279	
1966	33.1	85.4	43.2	16.4	3.2	2.7	5.0	58.4	11.1	15.7	17.9	19.6	311.7
1967	38.0	95.4	44.2	17.5	3.3	3.4	5.7	64.2	13.0	17.9	26.3	16.0	350.9
1968	46.8	118.1	59.1	21.8	4.4	4.5	7.5	81.3	14.6	24.8	29.2	26.7	438.8
1969	56.9	136.4	66.6	29.1	4.6	4.8	6.7	91.4	16.8	25.0	24.2	29.5	492.0
1970	70.5	160.7	71.7	38.4	5.1	5.5	5.8	109.0	18.8	26.7	23.1	36.5	571.8
1971	68.3	147.3	82.5	42.2	6.2	5.9	9.4	107.2	20.5	35.7	25.9	42.3	593.4
1972	74.6	160.6	102.7	49.1	9.0	5.5	12.6	129.8	20.7	39.2	32.9	48.6	685.3
1973	96.7	236.9	125.9	74.3	15.1	7.7	14.2	183.0	27.0	54.5	35.2	65.5	936.0
1974	155.6	506.3	202.9	106.5	21.2	11.7	25.1	321.7	39.1	71.5	57.4	103.2	1,622.2
1969 1st quarter	13.0	30.7	17.7	6.3	0.8	1.0	1.6	20.3	3.9	6.5	8.0	7.4	117.2
2nd quarter	15.2	34.6	16.8	7.1	1.2	1.3	1.7	24.9	4.6	6.8	5.7	7.5	127.4
3rd quarter	14.3	35.0	15.4	7.7	1.4	1.3	1.7	23.4	4.1	5.7	6.1	7.6	123.7
4th quarter	14.4	36.0	16.7	8.0	1.1	1.3	1.6	22.8	4.2	6.0	4.4	7.0	123.5
1970 1st quarter	17.3	37.6	16.9	9.6	0.9	1.3	1.3	25.1	4.5	5.7	7.3	9.6	137.0
2nd quarter	17.3	40.5	19.4	8.8	1.4	1.5	1.6	28.1	5.2	8.7	4.4	9.2	144.3
3rd quarter	16.7	40.4	17.0	9.1	1.6	1.6	1.4	27.3	4.0	7.5	4.9	9.1	140.6
4th quarter	19.2	42.2	18.5	10.9	1.2	1.1	1.5	28.4	5.0	6.8	6.5	8.6	149.8
1971 1st quarter	18.0	40.2	20.2	10.3	1.3	1.3	1.9	26.4	4.6	9.2	8.9	11.7	154.0
2nd quarter	18.6	36.4	21.8	10.8	1.8	1.4	2.6	27.4	5.3	9.5	5.1	11.0	151.7
3rd quarter	13.9	35.3	21.7	9.9	1.8	1.6	2.5	28.2	5.6	8.3	6.0	10.5	145.3
4th quarter	17.8	35.4	18.9	11.2	1.3	1.6	2.4	25.3	5.0	8.7	6.0	9.0	142.6
1972 1st quarter	18.3	38.8	28.3	11.2	1.7	1.3	4.2	31.7	4.9	9.8	9.8	12.4	172.4
2nd quarter	19.4	37.3	28.1	11.2	2.0	1.4	2.6	32.5	5.3	9.8	10.5	12.6	172.7
3rd quarter	16.5	37.2	22.4	12.5	2.3	1.2	2.6	31.1	4.8	9.5	4.8	11.0	155.9
4th quarter	20.3	47.2	23.9	14.2	3.0	1.5	3.3	34.6	5.7	10.1	7.8	12.7	184.3
1973 1st quarter	24.4	47.6	28.6	15.6	2.5	1.8	3.2	39.8	6.0	12.6	12.1	16.2	210.4
2nd quarter	23.0	54.3	26.8	17.3	3.9	1.8	3.6	42.0	7.1	13.3	7.6	15.8	216.5
3rd quarter	23.7	62.8	32.7	21.1	4.4	2.0	3.6	47.4	6.7	14.8	7.5	16.7	243.4
4th quarter	25.6	72.2	37.8	20.4	4.3	2.1	3.8	53.8	7.2	13.7	8.0	16.8	265.7
1974 1st quarter	32.7	104.1	42.1	24.4	4.8	2.6	4.6	75.4	8.3	18.7	12.3	22.9	352.9
2nd quarter	35.6	139.8	47.2	27.4	5.7	2.9	6.8	77.1	9.9	19.1	13.0	25.8	410.3
3rd quarter	41.2	140.3	60.7	28.7	5.7	3.4	7.4	97.5	10.5	18.5	15.7	26.7	456.3
4th quarter	46.1	122.2	52.9	26.1	4.9	2.9	6.3	71.7	10.4	15.3	16.3	27.8	402.9
1975 1st quarter	42.7	116.3	55.7	26.1	5.9	2.3	5.5	51.5	11.0	11.5	17.5	28.9	374.9
2nd quarter	42.8	92.3	52.7	25.0	6.5	2.3	4.4	53.8	9.3	12.8	13.7	29.9	345.5
3rd quarter	40.4	84.4	66.6	28.9	6.6	2.4	4.3	58.9	9.7	12.9	12.1	26.7	354.1

TABLE 3 Exports of the chemical industry: current prices

£ million

	Inorganic chemicals	Organic chemicals	Other chemicals	Pharm. chems. and preps.	Toilet prepara-tions	Paint	Soap and deter-gents	Synthetic resins	Synthetic rubber	Dyestuffs and pigments	Fertilisers	Products of other chemical industries	Of which: Pesticides	Of which: Photo-graphic materials	Total
	271/1	271/2*	271/3	272	273	274	275	276/1	276/2	277	278	279	279/4	279/7	
1966	41.9	69.7	74.3	70.4	13.0	14.1	14.9	86.0	10.7	36.8	7.8	62.1	15.0	19.0	500.5
1967	41.4	75.4	77.5	75.2	14.0	13.4	16.2	91.5	10.0	37.5	8.4	65.8	17.0	21.3	526.2
1968	50.1	99.3	93.9	92.6	17.3	16.3	18.6	107.0	14.1	45.1	7.5	86.0	21.0	30.4	647.8
1969	51.3	109.8	109.5	112.9	20.4	17.6	22.5	124.1	17.5	50.1	6.4	102.9	26.2	37.4	744.0
1970	61.5	135.7	127.0	134.1	22.4	19.5	23.5	139.1	19.8	53.6	4.8	109.8	26.5	44.7	851.0
1971	62.7	154.4	148.9	161.1	23.9	21.6	23.8	139.6	22.2	58.7	3.6	126.8	32.7	51.2	947.3
1972	58.0	160.5	155.3	172.9	28.2	19.7	28.8	157.2	25.7	79.2	7.0	129.2	33.5	60.1	1,021.7
1973	81.5	244.1	198.0	212.6	34.4	24.2	38.0	190.5	34.3	107.0	14.8	158.3	42.0	72.8	1,337.7
1974	128.1	545.3	311.3	287.1	46.8	38.2	70.5	315.9	46.6	162.2	45.7	221.9	60.7	89.6	2,219.6
1969 1st qtr.	11.5	24.3	23.8	25.3	4.3	4.0	4.9	27.8	4.2	11.1	1.9	23.3	6.4	7.5	166.5
2nd qtr.	13.8	26.8	28.5	28.6	5.0	4.4	5.1	32.3	4.3	12.7	1.0	27.2	7.3	9.9	189.7
3rd qtr.	13.2	28.7	29.0	29.0	5.1	4.4	6.2	30.2	4.0	12.4	0.8	25.8	6.1	9.9	188.8
4th qtr.	12.8	30.0	28.3	29.9	5.9	4.9	6.3	33.8	5.0	13.9	1.6	26.6	6.4	10.1	199.0
1970 1st qtr.	13.7	31.8	29.1	31.0	5.0	4.3	5.6	33.2	4.4	12.5	1.7	26.0	8.0	9.1	198.2
2nd qtr.	18.3	33.0	31.6	32.7	6.0	5.1	6.0	37.8	5.9	14.3	1.4	30.5	8.3	12.2	222.5
3rd qtr.	13.8	32.6	30.5	31.3	5.3	4.4	5.6	31.2	4.6	12.7	0.6	25.4	5.1	11.7	198.1
4th qtr.	15.9	38.3	35.8	39.0	6.2	5.6	6.3	37.0	4.9	14.1	1.1	27.9	5.0	11.7	232.2
1971 1st qtr.	14.8	35.3	30.5	34.3	5.1	4.9	5.6	30.9	5.3	13.2	1.4	28.0	8.1	10.7	209.3
2nd qtr.	16.7	41.2	37.6	44.6	5.9	5.6	6.2	36.1	5.0	14.7	0.8	34.8	9.8	13.8	249.2
3rd qtr.	15.3	38.1	42.4	40.4	6.0	5.2	6.0	34.4	5.5	14.8	0.4	30.2	7.1	13.3	238.7
4th qtr.	15.8	39.9	38.3	41.9	6.9	5.8	6.0	38.1	6.4	16.0	1.0	33.8	7.7	13.4	249.9
1972 1st qtr.	12.6	36.0	37.5	41.7	6.4	4.7	6.9	37.7	6.8	17.6	1.8	30.1	9.0	12.7	239.8
2nd qtr.	16.7	43.7	42.3	43.7	7.3	5.7	7.9	41.8	6.6	22.0	1.4	38.9	11.8	16.8	278.0
3rd qtr.	11.5	37.1	34.4	37.7	5.9	3.9	6.0	31.2	5.1	16.7	1.4	25.4	4.9	13.6	216.3
4th qtr.	17.1	43.6	41.2	49.9	8.5	5.4	8.0	46.5	7.2	22.9	2.4	34.8	7.8	17.0	287.5
1973 1st qtr.	16.6	52.4	42.5	48.5	7.8	5.3	8.7	44.6	7.9	23.8	3.9	38.7	12.5	15.8	300.7
2nd qtr.	19.9	58.8	52.0	54.3	8.7	6.2	9.5	48.0	8.9	25.6	3.7	43.2	11.8	20.1	338.8
3rd qtr.	21.4	62.5	48.8	52.5	8.8	5.9	9.1	44.4	8.1	26.3	2.1	37.3	8.2	18.7	327.2
4th qtr.	23.6	70.5	54.6	57.3	9.0	6.8	10.7	53.5	9.4	31.2	5.0	39.1	9.5	18.2	370.7
1974 1st qtr.	26.2	105.6	58.0	61.6	9.8	7.5	12.7	62.8	10.9	39.9	9.7	48.1	15.3	18.2	452.8
2nd qtr.	31.8	144.5	77.3	69.4	11.6	9.9	17.6	85.5	12.7	45.2	9.4	56.7	16.2	23.6	571.6
3rd qtr.	35.3	150.7	84.7	75.7	12.8	10.6	18.3	85.3	12.0	41.5	10.0	57.4	12.3	25.8	594.3
4th qtr.	34.8	144.6	91.3	80.3	12.6	10.2	21.8	82.3	11.0	35.7	16.6	59.8	16.9	21.9	601.0
1975 1st qtr.	38.2	108.6	74.9	80.8	12.9	11.4	18.2	73.3	8.9	34.9	27.2	67.5	22.4	24.4	556.6
2nd qtr.	31.8	105.0	86.9	95.8	14.9	12.1	21.6	71.2	9.4	32.4	15.0	72.5	25.2	26.0	568.5
3rd qtr.	27.2	105.8	84.7	84.0	14.8	10.3	19.4	65.2	8.0	31.5	4.7	67.1	20.5	25.8	522.7

TABLE 4 Home market prices

1970 = 100

	1968 MLH	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1973			1974				1975		
									2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr. p
Inorganic chemicals	271/1	92.6	95.0	100.0	108.0	112.3	116.8	140.7	115.2	117.4	119.7	126.2	137.7	145.7	153.3	170.1	194.4	207.5
Organic chemicals	271/2	98.7	98.3	100.0	106.3	108.1	112.9	185.7	111.2	113.5	117.0	157.4	189.0	197.5	199.1	210.3	220.8	227.7
Other chemicals	271/3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pharmaceutical chemicals	272	86.6	87.5	100.0	110.4	107.7	112.6	137.6	106.9	115.4	121.3	126.1	130.8	139.0	154.7	169.2	178.6	189.4
Pharmaceutical preparations	272	99.7	98.3	100.0	103.6	109.1	112.3	126.9	110.6	112.7	114.5	117.1	122.8	130.0	137.8	145.8	154.3	168.7
Toilet preparations	273	92.3	93.9	100.0	108.3	118.6	124.3	136.8	123.4	125.0	125.9	129.0	134.8	138.9	144.5	152.9	159.9	170.6
Paint	274	93.1	94.0	100.0	112.4	120.6	127.5	161.9	125.1	127.0	133.4	141.5	159.5	165.8	180.7	196.0	201.6	205.3
Soap and synthetic detergents	275	90.6	93.5	100.0	103.0	112.3	123.8	162.8	118.1	128.7	133.3	145.3	160.7	168.4	176.9	181.0	182.4	187.9
Synthetic resins and plastics materials	276/1	96.5	97.1	100.0	102.6	103.8	105.6	156.4	103.7	106.0	108.7	133.0	156.7	163.9	172.1	177.0	180.0	181.9
Dyestuffs and pigments	277	89.2	93.1	100.0	111.6	115.7	122.6	141.5	120.9	123.7	125.5	131.4	138.7	144.5	151.3	158.9	168.1	181.8
Total	Order V*	94.7	95.5	100.0	108.2	113.7	118.9	152.8	117.1	119.2	122.5	135.5	150.3	158.2	167.3	177.4	186.2	192.8
Total all manufacturing industry		89.9	93.4	100.0	109.0	114.8	123.2	152.1	120.1	124.2	129.1	138.3	148.9	156.1	164.9	176.0	186.3	193.3

* This price index refers only to sales outside the chemicals industry, including sectors not shown above.
.. not available.

TABLE 5 Prices of materials and fuel purchased by the chemicals and allied industries (Order V) and by manufacturing industry

1970 = 100

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1973			1974				1975		
								2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.
Order V	91.2	93.5	100.0	108.8	112.2	135.9	215.4	126.8	141.9	154.5	200.7	214.1	219.3	227.3	230.9	233.5	241.0
Manufacturing industry	91.5	95.0	100.0	104.6	109.2	144.5	215.1	133.3	150.9	167.6	212.5	213.7	212.9	222.1	220.9	225.6	239.2

TABLE 6 Employment in Great Britain

Thousands

	MLH	1973	1974				1975		
		December	March	June	September	December	March	June	September
General chemicals	271	135.5	133.8	133.1	135.4	136.3	135.6	134.9	134.9
Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	272	96.7	76.6	76.3	78.3	78.8	77.6	74.3	75.4
Toilet preparations	273	27.9	27.1	27.1	27.7	26.5	26.2	24.0	23.6
Paint	274	27.3	27.2	27.4	27.8	27.5	27.1	27.3	27.3
Soap and detergents	275	15.5	15.2	15.8	16.3	16.2	16.2	14.9	16.0
Synthetic resins and plastics materials and synthetic rubber	276	49.5	48.5	49.4	50.2	50.2	48.4	47.5	47.3
Dyestuffs and pigments	277	22.9	23.0	23.4	24.1	24.1	23.6	23.2	23.0
Fertilisers	278	11.2	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.7	11.7
Other chemical industries	279	69.1	68.0	67.8	68.7	68.1	67.5	67.6	66.9
Total		435.6	430.9	432.1	440.1	439.6	434.0	425.3	426.1
Total manufacturing		7,799.4	7,685.7	7,705.0	7,758.9	7,710.4	7,536.1	7,378.6	7,327.8

Source: Department of Employment

TABLE 7 Capital expenditure

	Current prices	£ million 1970 prices
1963	127.8	172.7
1964	162.2	214.8
1965	217.4	274.0
1966	254.3	304.8
1967	214.7	256.1
1968	223.1	256.0
1969	267.6	296.4
1970	382.3	382.3
1971	367.1	333.9
1972	281.7	240.5
1973	250.9	193.3
1974	382.2	241.2

	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1970 1st quarter	82.1	92.3
2nd quarter	89.9	93.9
3rd quarter	93.6	96.7
4th quarter	116.7	99.4
1971 1st quarter	89.2	88.7
2nd quarter	82.4	78.5
3rd quarter	90.6	84.8
4th quarter	104.9	81 9
1972 1st quarter	76 7	69.7
2nd quarter	71.0	62.8
3rd quarter	64.9	57.4
4th quarter	69.1	50.6
1973 1st quarter	59.8	49.9
2nd quarter	60.4	49.1
3rd quarter	58.9	47.4
4th quarter	71.8	46.9
1974 1st quarter	72.3	53.9
2nd quarter	80.2	55.4
3rd quarter	92.1	60.6
4th quarter	137.6	71.3
1975 1st quarter	132.7	77.0
2nd quarter	147.3	76.5

Steel consumption and stocks in the third quarter of 1975

Seasonally adjusted estimates of aggregate consumption, deliveries and stocks of finished steel by type in the third quarter of 1975 are given in Tables 1 and 5. Estimates of consumption and stocks, by industry, are given in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

Consumption by industry: Table 2

The small increase (0.6 per cent) in aggregate consumption of steel over the previous quarter reflects increases by the railway industry, electrical and mechanical engineering, hollow-ware and wire manufactures. Decreases were recorded by the shipbuilding, construction and motor industries.

Stocks by industry: Table 3

During each of the last four quarters aggregate stock levels have fallen, the end September 1975 level being 7 per cent below that of 12 months previously. There were increases for shipbuilding and coal-mining (0.52 million tonnes from 0.45 million and 0.22 million tonnes from 0.20 million, respectively). The largest decreases were for mechanical engineering (0.93 million tonnes from 1.05 million), electrical engineering (0.13 million tonnes from 0.19 million), motors (0.40 million tonnes from 0.47 million) and hollow-ware (0.14 million tonnes from 0.19 million).

Ratio of stocks to weekly consumption by industry: Table 4

The ratios followed the movement shown by stock changes. Shipbuilding and construction continue to have the highest ratio with an estimated 49 and 26 weeks, respectively. Hollow-ware, wire manufactures and electrical enginering have the lowest with seven, eight and eight weeks, respectively.

Stocks by type: Table 5

Of the four types of steel identified in Table 5, stocks of plate have increased steadily since 1971 to the first quarter 1975 and have remained virtually unchanged at about 1.32 million tonnes since then. In contrast, stocks of sheet at 0.67 million tonnes are now only slightly above the 1971 level, having risen to an historically high level in the second quarter of 1974, and fallen sharply during this year. Tinplate fell slightly below the 1971 level to 0.15 million tonnes. Stocks of rods and bars for reinforcement are at a level comparable with the third quarter 1974.

TABLE 1 Consumption, deliveries and stocks of finished steel

Seasonally adjusted

	Consumption m. tonnes	Deliveries m. tonnes			Stocks at end of period m. tonnes			Ratio of stocks to weekly consumption (b)		
		From UK production to consumers and stockholders	Imports	Total to consumers (a)	Consumers	Stockholders	Total	Consumers	Stockholders	Total
1968	16.83	15.46	1.56	17.00	3.26	0.61	3.87	9.6	1.7	11.3
1969	17.78	17.14	1.18	18.28	3.77	0.63	4.40	10.8	1.9	12.7
1970	17.64	17.10	1.04	17.91	4.15	0.87	5.02	11.9	2.5	14.4
1971	16.72	14.50	1.41	16.07	3.47	0.71	4.18	11.5	2.3	13.8
1972	16.75	14.59	2.14	16.72	3.44	0.72	4.16	9.6	2.0	11.6
1973	18.45	16.80	2.51	19.45	4.44	0.58	5.02	13.2	1.8	15.0
1974	17.58	15.07	3.29	18.07	4.96	0.87	5.83	15.1	2.6	17.7
1972 1st quarter	3.93	3.42	0.48	3.90	3.49	0.67	4.16	11.0	2.4	13.4
2nd quarter	4.04	3.43	0.47	3.88	3.33	0.68	4.01	10.0	2.2	12.2
3rd quarter	4.28	3.78	0.53	4.32	3.32	0.73	4.05	9.6	2.1	11.7
4th quarter	4.50	3.96	0.66	4.62	3.44	0.72	4.16	9.6	2.0	11.6
1973 1st quarter	4.67	4.15	0.65	4.80	3.57	0.73	4.30	10.6	2.2	12.8
2nd quarter	4.37	4.13	0.44	4.61	3.82	0.68	4.50	10.8	1.9	12.7
3rd quarter	4.60	4.26	0.61	4.91	4.12	0.64	4.76	11.1	1.8	12.9
4th quarter	4.81	4.26	0.81	5.13	4.44	0.58	5.02	13.2	1.8	15.0
1974 1st quarter	4.36	3.98	0.97	4.92	5.00	0.62	5.62	14.2	1.8	16.0
2nd quarter	4 59	3.93	0.82	4.62	5.06	0.75	5.81	15.5	2.3	17.8
3rd quarter	4.25	3.56	0.70	4.19	5.00	0.81	5.81	14.8	2.4	17.2
4th quarter	4.38	3.60	0.80	4.34	4.96	0.87	5.83	15.1	2.6	17.7
1975 1st quarter	4.26	3.53	0.85	4.24	4.94	1.01	5.95	17.4	3.6	21.0
2nd quarter	3.69	2.83	0.66	3.55	4.83	0.95	5.75	16.8	3.3	20.1
3rd quarter	3.71	2.74	0.74	3.55	4.64	0.89	5.53	16.2	3.1	19.3

(a) Total deliveries to consumers are deliveries from UK production to consumers and stockholding merchants plus imports minus stock build by stockholding merchants.
(b) Calculated as stocks divided by weekly consumption in the following quarter, with the exception of the latest quarter when the divisor is weekly consumption in that quarter.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1974, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

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TABLE 2 Consumption of finished steel by industry group

Seasonally adjusted — Million tonnes

	Coalmining	Railways	Shipbuilding	Construction	Engineering: Electrical	Engineering: Mechanical	Motors	Hollow-ware	Wire and wire manufactures	Other consuming industries
1968	0.47	0.37	0.61	2.81	0.78	3.62	2.24	1.05	1.17	3.71
1969	0.45	0.39	0.68	2.81	0.78	3.89	2.38	1.12	1.23	4.05
1970	0.44	0.40	0.68	2.86	0.77	3.83	2.32	1.12	1.25	3.97
1971	0.52	0.37	0.69	3.13	0.74	3.06	2.30	1.23	1.12	3.56
1972	0.47	0.37	0.72	2.99	0.76	3.18	2.21	1.23	1.14	3.68
1973	0.52	0.37	0.65	3.35	0.87	3.73	2.43	1.35	1.23	3.95
1974	0.50	0.48	0.58	3.08	1.07	3.54	2.13	1.33	1.12	3.75
1972 1st quarter	0.08	0.08	0.16	0.73	0.18	0.76	0.52	0.31	0.27	0.84
2nd quarter	0.13	0.09	0.19	0.71	0.19	0.76	0.53	0.28	0.28	0.88
3rd quarter	0.12	0.11	0.18	0.76	0.20	0.80	0.55	0.30	0.30	0.96
4th quarter	0.14	0.09	0.19	0.79	0.19	0.86	0.61	0.34	0.29	1.00
1973 1st quarter	0.13	0.09	0.20	0.83	0.21	0.93	0.60	0.32	0.34	1.02
2nd quarter	0.13	0.09	0.14	0.74	0.21	0.89	0.58	0.34	0.30	0.95
3rd quarter	0.13	0.09	0.15	0.86	0.23	0.95	0.63	0.33	0.29	0.94
4th quarter	0.13	0.10	0.16	0.92	0.22	0.96	0.62	0.36	0.30	1.04
1974 1st quarter	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.89	0.25	0.86	0.50	0.33	0.28	0.90
2nd quarter	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.81	0.28	0.93	0.56	0.37	0.27	1.00
3rd quarter	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.66	0.28	0.86	0.56	0.30	0.29	0.88
4th quarter	0.14	0.13	0.15	0.72	0.26	0.89	0.51	0.33	0.28	0.97
1975 1st quarter	0.14	0.15	0.18	0.71	0.22	0.92	0.48	0.30	0.27	0.89
2nd quarter	0.12	0.12	0.18	0.65	0.18	0.79	0.37	0.24	0.22	0.82
3rd quarter	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.59	0.22	0.80	0.36	0.28	0.24	0.82

TABLE 3 Stocks of finished steel by industry group

Seasonally adjusted — million tonnes

	Coalmining	Railways	Shipbuilding	Construction	Engineering: Electrical	Engineering: Mechanical	Motors	Hollow-ware	Wire and wire manufactures	Other consuming industries
1968	0.11	0.09	0.21	0.71	0.11	0.74	0.40	0.17	0.10	0.62
1969	0.11	0.10	0.28	0.88	0.12	0.86	0.43	0.18	0.10	0.71
1970	0.11	0.12	0.29	1.06	0.14	0.93	0.46	0.16	0.14	0.74
1971	0.13	0.11	0.25	0.84	0.10	0.78	0.37	0.14	0.13	0.62
1972	0.09	0.08	0.27	0.83	0.10	0.80	0.38	0.14	0.12	0.63
1973	0.14	0.09	0.34	1.11	0.15	0.92	0.50	0.19	0.14	0.86
1974	0.19	0.14	0.45	1.22	0.17	1.05	0.46	0.20	0.15	0.93
1972 1st quarter	0.12	0.10	0.26	0.85	0.10	0.77	0.37	0.15	0.14	0.63
2nd quarter	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.40	0.10	0.76	0.35	0.15	0.13	0.59
3rd quarter	0.09	0.08	0.25	0.80	0.10	0.78	0.34	0.14	0.12	0.62
4th quarter	0.09	0.08	0.27	0.83	0.10	0.80	0.38	0.14	0.12	0.63
1973 1st quarter	0.11	0.09	0.26	0.87	0.11	0.82	0.40	0.15	0.11	0.65
2nd quarter	0.11	0.09	0.27	0.95	0.12	0.84	0.44	0.16	0.13	0.71
3rd quarter	0.12	0.09	0.31	1.05	0.14	0.85	0.46	0.19	0.13	0.78
4th quarter	0.14	0.09	0.34	1.11	0.15	0.92	0.50	0.19	0.14	0.86
1974 1st quarter	0.18	0.12	0.37	1.18	0.21	1.04	0.55	0.22	0.16	0.97
2nd quarter	0.20	0.13	0.42	1.23	0.20	1.07	0.49	0.19	0.17	0.97
3rd quarter	0.20	0.13	0.45	1.22	0.19	1.05	0.47	0.19	0.16	0.94
4th quarter	0.19	0.14	0.45	1.22	0.17	1.05	0.46	0.20	0.15	0.93
1975 1st quarter	0.20	0.13	0.48	1.22	0.15	1.03	0.43	0.20	0.16	0.94
2nd quarter	0.21	0.15	0.51	1.21	0.15	0.99	0.41	0.18	0.13	0.86
3rd quarter	0.22	0.15	0.52	1.20	0.13	0.93	0.40	0.14	0.14	0.81

TABLE 4 Ratio of stocks to weekly consumption by industry group

Seasonally adjusted

	Coalmining	Railways	Shipbuilding	Construction	Engineering: Electrical	Engineering: Mechanical	Motors	Hollow-ware	Wire and wire manufactures	Other consuming industries
1968	12	14	17	14	7	10	8	8	4	8
1969	12	13	21	16	8	11	9	9	4	9
1970	10	16	22	16	9	14	10	6	6	10
1971	23	17	21	15	8	13	9	6	6	9
1972	9	11	18	13	6	11	8	6	5	8
1973	22	11	29	16	8	14	13	8	7	13
1974	17	14	38	22	9	15	12	8	7	12
1972 1st quarter	12	15	18	16	7	13	9	7	7	9
2nd quarter	10	12	18	14	6	12	8	6	6	8
3rd quarter	9	12	17	13	6	12	7	5	6	8
4th quarter	9	11	18	13	6	11	8	6	5	8
1973 1st quarter	11	14	24	15	7	12	9	6	5	9
2nd quarter	11	14	23	14	7	12	9	7	6	10
3rd quarter	12	11	26	15	8	12	10	7	6	10
4th quarter	22	11	29	16	8	14	13	8	7	13
1974 1st quarter	20	12	36	19	10	15	13	8	8	13
2nd quarter	17	14	37	24	9	16	11	8	8	14
3rd quarter	18	13	38	22	10	15	12	8	7	13
4th quarter	17	12	34	22	10	15	12	9	7	14
1975 1st quarter	21	14	35	25	11	17	15	11	9	15
2nd quarter	22	14	48	26	9	16	15	8	7	14
3rd quarter	23	14	49	26	8	15	14	7	8	13

See note Table 1 (b).

TABLE 5 Stocks of finished steel held by consumers and stockholders

Seasonally adjusted — million tonnes

	Sheets	Plates	Tinplate	Rods and bars for reinforcement	Other steel products	Total all products
CONSUMERS						
1970	0.53	0.85	0.14	0.19	2.44	4.15
1971	0.42	0.67	0.14	0.14	2.10	3.47
1972	0.42	0.70	0.14	0.15	2.03	3.44
1973	0.60	0.91	0.16	0.22	2.55	4.44
1974	0.61	1.07	0.17	0.23	2.88	4.96
1974 1st quarter	0.72	1.03	0.19	0.25	2.81	5.00
2nd quarter	0.66	1.08	0.17	0.25	2.91	5.07
3rd quarter	0.62	1.07	0.17	0.21	2.93	5.00
4th quarter	0.61	1.07	0.17	0.23	2.88	4.96
1975 1st quarter	0.54	1.09	0.19	0.23	2.89	4.94
2nd quarter	0.48	1.12	0.16	0.25	2.79	4.80
3rd quarter	0.43	1.12	0.14	0.21	2.74	4.64
STOCKHOLDERS						
1970	0.25	0.19	0.02	0.02	0.39	0.87
1971	0.21	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.38	0.71
1972	0.20	0.12	0.02	0.01	0.37	0.72
1973	0.15	0.11	0.02	0.01	0.29	0.58
1974	0.27	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.40	0.87
1974 1st quarter	0.18	0.12	0.02	0.01	0.29	0.62
2nd quarter	0.25	0.14	0.02	0.01	0.33	0.75
3rd quarter	0.27	0.16	0.01	0.01	0.36	0.81
4th quarter	0.27	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.40	0.87
1975 1st quarter	0.29	0.24	0.01	0.01	0.46	1.01
2nd quarter	0.27	0.20	0.01	0.01	0.46	0.95
3rd quarter	0.24	0.20	0.01	0.01	0.43	0.89
TOTAL						
1970	0.78	1.04	0.16	0.21	2.83	5.02
1971	0.63	0.76	0.16	0.15	2.48	4.18
1972	0.62	0.82	0.16	0.16	2.40	4.16
1973	0.75	1.02	0.18	0.23	2.84	5.02
1974	0.88	1.25	0.18	0.24	3.28	5.83
1974 1st quarter	0.90	1.15	0.21	0.26	3.10	5.62
2nd quarter	0.91	1.22	0.19	0.26	3.24	5.82
3rd quarter	0.89	1.23	0.18	0.22	3.29	5.81
4th quarter	0.88	1.25	0.18	0.24	3.28	5.83
1975 1st quarter	0.83	1.33	0.20	0.24	3.35	5.95
2nd quarter	0.75	1.32	0.17	0.26	3.25	5.75
3rd quarter	0.67	1.32	0.15	0.22	3.17	5.53

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7	Drawback on mixed or blended beers when exported or deposited in bonded warehouse.
17 (May 1973)	Arrangements for preferential trade between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom.
49	Temporary importations: international co-operation.
104	Temporary importations and exportations under ATA and ECS Carnets.
112	Authorised hours for Customs work at ports, airports and in long rooms and charges for attendance given at the request of merchants.
112A	Charges for attendance given at private premises at the request of merchants.
118	Samples imported for promoting export trade.
132A	Sugar: cessation of Import Duties and Imposition of Levies under the Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC and the Sugar Board Charge.
172	Hydrocarbon Oils: drawback of duty.
207	Re-imported goods: relief from Customs duty and Value Added Tax.
210	Temporary importation of films and similar goods for copying, printing, etc., to fulfil export orders.
221	Process Inwards Relief and Pre-financing of export refunds on products for process.
224	The examination of bottled beer, exported on drawback, at the premises of a licensed brewer for sale, or beer dealer, as an alternative to examination on the quay.
241	European Economic Community: Compensatory, Levy and Addendum thereto.
275	Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes.
276	Customs Entry forms in the C273 Series: Guidance on their completion.
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291	Claims for drawback on goods exported where there has been a variation in the duty rate.
300	Export reliefs scheduling scheme.
703	VAT – Exports. (Revised November 1973)
704	VAT – Retail Export Schemes. (Revised November 1973)
705	VAT – Tax free sales of motor vehicles to tourists, etc.
750 and Supplement	Community transit – this describes the system as a whole.
750A	List of Community Transit Offices.
750B	Community transit – Extension to cover Austria and Switzerland.
751 and Supplement	Notes on completing Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3 and Control Copy T forms.
751A	Notes on completing Community transit movement certificates.
752	Free circulation of goods in the European Community.
753	Community transit – the simplified procedure for goods carried by rail.
754	Community transit – Intra-Community treatment of the catches of fishing vessels registered in Member States.
755	Community transit – special control procedures.
756	Instructions on the use of loading lists as the descriptive part of Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3.
757	Community transit – Pre-authenticated movement certificate Form T3L
774	Hydrocarbon Oils Customs Duties: Additions of *Ad Valorem* Protective Element.
800	EEC Common Agricultural Policy: Customs procedures in respect of export refunds and export licences.
810	EEC Preferences – Free Trade Agreement between the EEC and the EFTA countries.
810A	EEC Preferences – EFTA Countries. Simplification of the documentation system described in Notice 810. Introduction of universal form of movement certificate EUR 1.
811	EEC Preferences – Greece.
812	EEC Preferences – Turkey.
813, 813B	EEC Preferences – Israel.
817	EEC Preferences – Tunisia
818	EEC Preferences – Egypt.
819	EEC Preferences – Cyprus.
821	EEC Preferences – simplified procedure for sending evidence to EEC customers about the origin of goods.
830	Arrangements between Denmark and United Kingdom.

Motor vehicle output in November 1975

Car production in the four weeks to 22 November was 114,227 (28,557 per week) 19 per cent below the November 1974 level. Production of commercial vehicles of 30,355 (7,589 per week) was 21 per cent below the November 1974 level. Cumulative car production to 22 November 1975 was 18 per cent below the 1974 level, while cumulative production of commercial vehicles was 5 per cent below.

(The summaries which follow are based on the seasonally adjusted figures in Table 2.)

Cars

Car production in November of 115 thousand units was 10 per cent below the 1974 monthly average. Production in the three months September to November, although slightly higher than that of the preceding three months, was still 15 per cent below the 1974 monthly average. Compared with the 1974 average, production for export in September-November fell by 12 per cent while that for the home market fell by 17 per cent.

Commercial vehicles

November production of 28.2 thousand units was 16 per cent below the 1974 monthly average, while average production in the three months September to November was 10 per cent below. Production for the home market in September to November was 25 per cent below the 1974 monthly average while production for export was 9 per cent higher.

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1967	52	988,273	563,740	1,552,013	29,846	245,692	139,414	385,106	7,406
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,049	416,623	8,012
1974	52	937,932	596,187	1,534,119	29,502	232,373	170,193	402,566	7,742
1975	52								
1974 1st quarter	13	237,232	150,688	387,920	29,840	52,641	36,845	89,486	6,884
2nd quarter	13	275,355	164,041	439,396	33,800	63,122	46,063	109,185	8,399
3rd quarter	13	185,497	121,121	306,618	23,586	50,233	39,800	90,033	6,926
4th quarter	13	239,848	160,337	400,185	30,783	66,377	47,485	113,862	8,759
1975 1st quarter	13	242,571	139,736	382,307	29,408	61,402	46,808	108,210	8,324
2nd quarter	13	145,107	142,664	287,771	22,136	49,650	48,435	98,085	7,545
3rd quarter	13	151,830	117,925	269,755	20,750	39,136	38,724	77,860	5,989
4th quarter	13								
1974 January	4	61,781	37,628	99,409	24,852	13,989	9,595	23,584	5,896
February	4	73,721	50,721	124,442	31,110	16,048	11,428	27,476	6,869
March	5	101,730	62,339	164,069	32,814	22,604	15,822	38,426	7,685
April	4	74,411	40,917	115,328	28,832	18,881	12,913	31,794	7,948
May	4	99,873	58,240	158,113	39,528	20,614	15,513	36,127	9,032
June	5	101,071	64,884	165,955	33,191	23,627	17,637	41,264	8,253
July	4	56,304	37,405	93,709	23,427	14,978	12,841	27,819	6,955
August	4	66,368	46,662	113,030	28,258	14,701	10,495	25,196	6,299
September	5	62,825	37,054	99,879	19,976	20,554	16,464	37,018	7,404
October	4	73,584	49,228	122,812	30,703	20,846	14,332	35,178	8,794
November	4	84,742	55,632	140,374	35,094	22,364	16,125	38,489	9,622
December	5	81,522	55,477	136,999	27,400	23,167	17,028	40,195	8,039
1975 January	4	79,301	46,278	125,579	31,395	19,997	14,429	34,426	8,606
February	4	84,826	43,032	127,858	31,964	19,669	15,619	35,288	8,822
March	5	78,444	50,426	128,870	25,774	21,736	16,760	38,496	7,699
April	4	57,260	48,895	106,155	26,539	16,866	14,418	31,284	7,821
May	4	35,750	36,423	72,173	18,043	15,879	16,070	31,949	7,987
June	5	52,097	57,346	109,443	21,888	16,905	17,947	34,852	6,970
July	4	39,303	32,345	71,648	17,912	10,995	12,480	23,475	5,869
August	4	40,219	38,525	78,744	19,686	10,117	10,271	20,388	5,097
September	5	72,308	47,055	119,363	23,873	18,024	15,973	33,997	6,799
October	4	60,873	36,246	97,119	24,280	14,963	16,352	31,315	7,829
November	4	68,206	46,021	114,227	28,557	13,994	16,361	30,355	7,589
December	5								

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many Government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1967	82	47	129	20.5	11.6	32.1
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	14.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.3	14.2	33.5
1975						
1974 1st quarter	69	42	111	16.6	11.7	28.3
2nd quarter	85	47	132	19.6	14.2	33.8
3rd quarter	83	55	138	21.3	16.2	37.5
4th quarter	76	54	130	19.9	14.7	34.6
1975 1st quarter	76	43	119	20.1	15.5	35.6
2nd quarter	46	43	89	15.8	15.0	30.8
3rd quarter	62	51	113	16.2	15.7	31.9
4th quarter						
1974 January	56	44	100	15.2	12.3	27.5
February	70	36	106	16.2	11.0	27.2
March	80	46	126	18.5	11.7	30.2
April	79	32	111	19.9	13.8	33.7
May	93	56	149	21.3	14.5	35.8
June	81	55	136	17.7	14.2	31.9
July	97	66	163	22.0	16.7	38.7
August	88	61	149	22.1	16.8	38.9
September	64	37	101	19.8	15.1	34.9
October	72	49	121	18.8	14.0	32.8
November	82	60	142	20.1	15.3	35.4
December	75	53	128	20.8	14.8	35.6
1975 January	78	53	131	21.7	17.4	39.1
February	85	36	121	20.2	15.8	36.0
March	65	40	105	18.4	13.4	31.8
April	61	46	107	17.4	15.2	32.6
May	34	36	70	16.5	15.3	31.8
June	43	48	91	13.6	14.6	28.2
July	66	56	122	16.0	16.4	32.4
August	52	50	102	15.1	16.1	31.2
September	70	46	116	17.4	14.7	32.1
October	60	35	95	13.5	16.1	29.6
November	66	49	115	12.6	15.6	28.2
December						
Average of:						
June-Aug .1975	53	52	105	14.9	15.7	30.6
Sept.-Nov. 1975	65	44	109	14.5	15.5	30.0
Percentage change	+22	−15	+4	−3	−1	−2

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Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (Nos. SD 1 and SD 9) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111 ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. The annual Monitors are individually priced, and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at either the Department of Industry Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, or the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors), and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government Bookshops or through booksellers.

Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in October

The seasonally adjusted index of retail sales in Northern Ireland for October was 217 (1965 = 100), 22 per cent more than in October 1974.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales in October showed no change compared with the corresponding period last year.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in October and percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown below. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

		October 1975	
Sales by	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	219	217	22
Food shops	97	227	23
Non-food shops	122	206	21
Of which:			
Clothing and footwear shops	36	186	14
Durable goods shops	21	180	6
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	260	32
Department and general stores	22	165	24

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Sales by wholesale textile houses

Sales by wholesale textile houses in October showed a decrease of 6 per cent on a year earlier, compared with a decrease of 11 per cent in August and an increase of 1 per cent in September.

The value of stocks at the end of October showed an increase of 3 per cent compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*–3*	..	..
1967	104	*–5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*–5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1974	147	*9*	..	..
1973 1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974 1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*–3*
1975 1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*–2*
3rd quarter	146	*–1*	193	*–1*
1974 October	206	*12*	192	*18*
November	156	*1*	222	*10*
December	158	*5*	198	*–3*
1975 January	99	*18*	205	*15*
February	155	*15*	213	*16*
March	176	*–3*	219	*16*
April	149	*7*	195	*8*
May	128	*4*	213	*3*
June	130	*–2*	197	*–2*
July	125	*7*	210	*2*
August	126	*–11*	206	—
September	186	*1*	193	*–1*
October	193	*–6*	197	*+3*

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales	Stocks‡
	October 1975	October 1975
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	14	2
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	42	56
Women's underwear	–27	9
Women's hose and children's socks	–18	2
Women's millinery	2	11
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	–2	54
Children's wear	–16	–16
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	–15	–2
Gloves	1	7
Piece-goods and nets	–6	–10
Household textiles	4	16
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	–6	–1
Boots and shoes	–18	–11
Total†	–6	+3

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Notes

The percentages normally quoted for the cumulative period from 1 January have had to be temporarily omitted but they will be restored in these reports before the year end. These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, the Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).

Production in the cotton industry

Statistics issued by the Textile Statistics Bureau show that in the period January-October 1975 the amount of cloth woven was 1 per cent less than in the same period last year. Production of single yarn decreased by 12 per cent and doubled yarn decreased by 10 per cent.

Production in the cotton industry

Annual totals and weekly averages

	Single yarn (†)		Doubled yarn		Woven cloth	
	Cotton yarn (‡)	Spun man-made yarns and mixture yarn, inc. waste	Cotton yarn	Other	Cotton	Man-made fibre and mixtures
	million kg.				million metres	
1968	171.2	67.5	49.9	52.0	668.2	507.3
1969	166.2	73.2	46.8	60.9	661.5	538.1
1970	158.7	77.4	43.2	57.3	627.6	484.3
1971	133.0	83.3	85.0		559.1	479.8
1972	121.4	81.7	75.4		513.0	469.8
1973	115.4	92.5	82.1		453.2	502.3
1974	101.3	87.7	74.7		409.5	505.3
1974 January*	1.6	1.4	1.1		6.6	6.8
February	1.7	1.5	1.2		7.1	7.9
March	2.2	2.0	1.6		8.6	10.6
April	2.0	1.9	1.6		8.0	10.5
May*	2.3	2.1	1.7		8.6	10.7
June	2.0	1.9	1.5		9.0	11.2
July*	1.7	1.4	1.3		5.4	7.8
August	2.2	2.0	1.6		8.6	10.8
September	1.8	1.5	1.3		6.8	9.9
October*	2.2	1.7	1.6		9.0	11.4
November	2.2	1.7	1.6		9.5	11.1
December	1.6	1.3	1.2		7.7	8.6
1975 January*	1.8	1.5	1.4		8.2	9.7
February	1.9	1.6	1.5		8.8	10.7
March	1.7	1.3	1.3		8.3	9.7
April*	1.8	1.6	1.2		7.7	9.4
May	2.1	1.7	1.5		8.1	10.0
June	1.7	1.6	1.3		8.7	10.1
July*	1.5	1.1	1.1		5.4	7.2
August	1.9	1.5	1.3		8.0	9.4
September	1.4	1.0	1.1		6.4	8.8
October*	2.1	1.6	1.4		8.5	10.9

(†) Spun in the cotton industry. (‡) Including yarns wholly of cotton waste and mixture yarn of cotton and cotton waste. * Average of five weeks.

The work of BSI

The British Standards Institution is the official standards organisation for this country and is very active in removing technical barriers to trade through international standards organisation such as ISO and IEC. BSI has several other functions. It runs certification and approvals schemes, among them granting licences to manufacturers to use the 'Kitemark' on products conforming to British Standards. It also undertakes testing work for outside bodies and, through the Technical Help to Exporters Scheme, provides information on technical requirements and approvals procedures in overseas markets. BSI, 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS.

Output in the wool textile industry

The volume of production in the wool textile industry (as measured by the seasonally adjusted index of production) in October 1975 was 9 per cent lower than in October 1974. Statistics issued by the Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics show that in the period January-October 1975 woven fabrics (excluding blankets) were 13 per cent less than in the same period last year; deliveries of worsted yarn (excluding semi-worsted yarn) were 14 per cent lower. Production of wool and hair tops was 1 per cent more and that of man-made fibre tops was 20 per cent less.

Output in the wool textile industry

	Consumption	Production			Deliveries			
	Raw wool (clean weight)	Tops		Woollen yarn (†)	Worsted yarn (§)	Woven fabrics (excluding blankets) (‡)		Blankets (†)
		Wool and hair	Man-made fibres			Woollen	Worsted	
	million kilos					million sq. metres		
1968	177.5	96.6	36.4	147.4	98.2	135.8	110.6	27.3
1969	174.5	92.0	42.2	142.2	100.5	130.1	109.2	26.9
1970	153.1	79.7	44.6	129.4	97.6	115.5	99.8	24.6
1971	141.2	66.2	36.6	130.7	93.0	101.9	83.9	28.5
1972	152.3	75.1	45.9	130.9	101.6	99.8	83.7	28.8
1973	136.6	62.2	55.9	135.2	100.0	104.0	88.4	30.6
1974	112.6	43.9	54.8	122.5	87.2	92.1	82.6	28.1
1973 1st quarter	40.7	19.9	13.3	36.8	27.8	25.8	24.5	8.6
2nd quarter	34.9	16.6	13.9	33.4	24.6	27.2	21.7	7.3
3rd quarter	29.2	13.0	13.0	29.8	21.8	24.1	19.9	6.7
4th quarter	31.8	12.9	15.6	35.2	25.7	27.2	22.2	8.1
1974 1st quarter	28.4	11.9	13.3	29.5	21.5	22.7	20.9	7.8
2nd quarter	33.6	12.8	15.5	36.7	23.5	25.8	21.2	7.2
3rd quarter	25.9	10.0	14.0	28.0	20.6	23.0	19.4	6.4
4th quarter	24.7	9.1	12.0	28.5	21.6	20.6	21.2	6.8
1975 1st quarter	27.3	11.2	12.8	29.4	20.4	17.7	20.7	7.6
2nd quarter	29.1	11.9	12.7	29.7	19.4	22.5	19.2	5.0
3rd quarter		11.4	9.2	24.6	15.7	19.8	17.1	5.7
1974 January	8.7	3.6	3.8	9.2	6.8	7.4	6.7	2.3
February	8.6	3.6	4.0	8.8	6.9	7.0	6.6	2.9
March	11.1	4.7	5.5	11.5	7.8	8.3	7.6	2.6
April	11.0	4.4	5.9	12.0	8.1	8.3	7.0	2.4
May	10.9	4.2	4.8	12.1	7.6	9.0	7.1	2.5
June	11.7	4.2	4.8	12.6	7.8	8.5	7.1	2.3
July	9.2	4.0	6.1	9.3	7.4	7.6	7.0	1.6
August	7.7	2.5	3.7	9.0	6.4	7.5	5.7	2.3
September	9.0	3.6	4.2	9.7	6.8	7.9	6.8	2.6
October	8.6	3.3	4.9	10.1	8.4	8.2	7.9	2.5
November	8.4	3.0	3.8	9.6	7.2	7.2	6.7	2.5
December	7.7	2.8	3.4	8.8	6.0	5.3	6.4	1.8
1975 January	8.9	3.6	4.3	9.9	7.0	6.1	7.3	2.3
February	9.1	3.8	4.2	9.5	6.4	5.6	6.6	2.9
March	9.3	3.9	4.4	10.1	7.0	6.1	6.8	2.5
April	9.6	4.1	4.5	9.8	6.9	7.0	6.5	1.8
May	9.3	3.5	3.7	9.9	6.0	7.2	6.3	1.7
June	10.2	4.3	4.5	10.0	6.4	8.2	6.4	1.6
July	9.0	4.5	3.8	8.0	5.1	6.7	6.4	1.9
August	7.0	2.7	2.2	7.5	4.7	5.9	4.5	1.7
September		4.2	3.2	9.1	5.9	7.2	6.2	2.1
October		4.0	3.6	9.9	7.2	6.6	6.4	2.1

(†) Estimated. (‡) Woven woollen fabrics include fabrics which are mainly woollen by weight of components and, similarly, woven worsted fabrics include fabrics which are mainly worsted by weight of components. (§) From January 1969 includes semi-worsted yarn: previously yarn of this type was not separately distinguished and the small quantities involved were divided between the woollen and worsted yarn headings. In October deliveries of semi-worsted yarn were 0.8 million kilos.

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Prepared by the Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the Statistics Division of Government Departments, this digest is designed to provide industrialists and business executives with invaluable statistics relating to the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It contains a regular series of detailed statistics on a wide range of subjects which include the following: *Labour, Fuel and Power, External Trade, Wages and Prices, Industrial Production, Industrial Materials, Finance.*

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HMSO BOOKS

Index of industrial production for October 1975

The provisional estimate for the total index in October 1975 is 101.2 and for manufacturing alone it is 100.8 (1970 = 100).

Latest estimates suggest that, after the sharp decline earlier in the year, industrial output has shown a much smaller downward movement in recent months and may now have levelled out. It is provisionally estimated that the average level of the all-industries' index in the three months to October was less than ½ per cent above the level in the preceding three months; over the same comparison manufacturing output was little changed.

On a longer-term comparison, the all-industries' index in the latest three months was about 7½ per cent below its level in the third quarter of 1974; the corresponding fall for manufacturing industry was about 8½ per cent.

Many of the series used in compiling the index of production, in particular for manufacturing industry, measure deliveries rather than production. Deliveries and production in a month may differ because of movements in stocks. The use of such series resulted in the all-industries' index understating the level of output by about ¼ per cent in the first quarter and overstating the level of output in the second and third quarters by about ½ per cent and about 1 per cent respectively. The decline in output between the two latest quarters was thus ½ per cent greater than the figures in the table indicate.

The index numbers in this article and in the table are all seasonally adjusted. The seasonal adjustment process is designed to remove annually recurring month-to-month variations due, for example, to the incidence of holidays.

About two-thirds of the index of production is derived by the revaluation to the prices of 1970 of data expressed at current prices. When the rate of change of prices is relatively large, or itself changes rapidly, the problems associated with this revaluation become more acute. For this reason the estimates for periods since about the end of 1973 should be regarded a subject to wider margins of error than in earlier years.

The table incorporates revised and later information. In addition the introduction of improvements in methodology for a number of industries has led to some revisions both for 1975 and earlier years. The net effect of all these changes on the all-industries' index is an upward revision of about ½ per cent for the first and third quarters of this year and a downward revision of ½ per cent for the last quarter of 1974.

The percentage changes given in the table give a general guide to the changes in output of the major groups in recent months.

A new nationwide computer-based system called TOPS (Total Operations Processing System) provides minute-by-minute reports on the operations of British Rail's 175 million tons a year freight business. The system enables British Rail to tell customers where the freight is at any moment, allowing close prediction of time of arrival. Picture shows a row of TOPS 'on-line' disc drive: each of the 32 disc packs can store 100 million characters of information.

Have you a good industrial news picture?

Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted

1970 = 100

	Total all industries	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries												
			Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries						
				Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1971	100.5	99.7	99.7	100.6	99.9	101.7	103.4	102.1	99.4	100.1	100.8	102.6	96.6	99.4	93.6
1972	102.6	84.0	102.4	105.0	104.2	106.4	102.6	108.1	100.0	95.0	93.0	110.2	91.8	103.7	95.7
1973	110.3	93.6	110.9	109.4	106.4	114.2	110.0	121.5	107.9	103.7	101.7	125.2	95.1	105.1	103.1
1974	106.3	82.1	107.8	110.1	105.0	118.7	106.1	127.6	105.6	103.4	104.9	120.6	99.4	98.6	102.4
1974 1st qtr.	104.4	56.8	106.5	113.3	108.3	121.4	102.2	125.7	102.6	100.8	100.7	119.0	97.3	92.6	101.1
2nd qtr.	107.9	89.5	109.4	109.5	105.8	115.5	112.0	128.2	106.6	108.0	106.5	120.0	98.0	100.4	105.4
3rd qtr.	108.3	90.8	109.6	109.7	104.8	117.8	104.6	131.7	107.9	104.5	106.0	124.6	100.3	102.2	103.3
4th qtr.	104.8	91.1	105.7	108.1	100.9	120.0	105.6	124.7	105.5	104.3	106.5	118.9	102.0	99.1	99.8
1975 1st qtr.	104.8	90.9	106.1	110.2	103.9	120.4	94.5	118.2	106.8	105.6	105.0	120.0	103.1	101.7	100.5
2nd qtr.	100.2	88.2	100.4	108.5	102.9	117.7	92.5	112.5	101.1	104.4	106.0	112.8	103.2	91.3	90.2
3rd qtr.	100.0	87.9	100.1	111.4	105.4	121.3	92.6	115.7	99.5	100.7	100.1	111.1	102.9	93.9	87.7
1974 Oct.	105.7	91	106.3	108	101	119	107	128	105	104	106	120	101	98	101
Nov.	105.5	91	106.7	108	101	120	107	125	106	104	107	119	103	101	102
Dec.	103.0	91	104.1	108	101	121	102	121	105	104	107	118	102	98	96
1975 Jan.	105.5	89	107.7	113	105	126	101	123	108	106	106	121	104	106	103
Feb.	105.2	91	106.9	110	104	120	94	121	107	106	105	120	103	102	99
Mar.	103.6	93	103.8	108	103	115	89	112	105	106	104	119	103	97	100
Apr.	101.5	91	101.7	107	100	120	91	115	103	105	107	115	103	97	92
May	99.4	88	99.4	108	104	115	96	109	99	104	106	113	103	85	89
Jun.	99.7	86	100.0	110	105	119	90	113	100	104	105	111	104	91	89
Jul.	100.6	87	100.9	111	106	121	88	115	101	102	101	111	103	98	90
Aug.	98.3	88	98.9	110	104	118	96	112	99	100	100	111	103	92	86
Sept.	100.5	88	100.5	113	106	125	94	120	99	100	99	101	102	92	87
Oct.	101.2	92	100.8	111	106	120	88	119	99	100	99	111	103	91	92
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	+0.3	+2.8	−0.1	+1.4	+0.6	+2.5	+1.6	+3.9	−1.4	−3.0	−4.3	−0.2	−0.8	+0.2	−1.4
% change latest 3 months on a year earlier	−6.6	−1.5	−7.6	+1.8	+1.6	+2.3	−13.9	−10.2	−7.2	−4.2	−6.3	−9.8	+1.3	−8.6	−13.4

	Manufacturing industries (continued)													Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc.							
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc.	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc.	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1971	91.3	89.8	95.8	102.3	100.7	103.0	105.4	107.7	106.3	109.8	103.0	97.3	99.7	102.9	103.9
1972	91.4	89.4	97.3	104.6	103.1	104.5	107.8	114.2	113.6	115.3	113.5	102.6	104.2	104.5	111.2
1973	100.0	97.3	108.5	110.1	108.6	101.0	114.6	127.9	126.8	129.5	132.6	112.1	116.5	107.6	118.1
1974	91.7	87.7	104.2	103.1	99.2	96.3	112.2	117.4	109.4	129.3	112.4	108.8	114.3	98.4	119.7
1974 1st qtr.	91.0	86.3	105.4	100.5	98.1	96.8	105.3	118.7	109.5	133.1	117.1	108.8	112.7	102.3	118.9
2nd qtr.	91.5	86.5	107.1	107.5	104.9	100.0	113.8	120.4	113.7	130.9	116.6	112.4	118.5	99.4	119.2
3rd qtr.	95.0	91.7	105.3	105.2	100.9	95.0	115.4	117.3	110.7	127.6	110.7	109.9	117.3	98.4	123.8
4th qtr.	89.4	86.3	99.0	99.6	93.0	93.3	114.2	113.0	104.9	125.6	104.8	104.1	108.6	93.7	124.1
1975 1st qtr.	91.5	89.5	97.7	101.1	94.6	89.3	115.9	112.9	104.8	125.5	110.6	100.2	110.4	93.9	119.8
2nd qtr.	73.3	68.3	88.8	99.6	95.1	91.5	109.9	104.5	99.7	112.2	111.1	95.8	100.5	93.0	119.3
3rd qtr.	71.3	66.0	87.7	100.1	93.5	84.5	115.9	104.5	102.3	108.0	108.0	93.3	105.7	95.1	114.9
1974 Oct.	87	82	104	103	98	93	115	113	104	127	105	106	113		132
Nov.	90	85	104	101	95	93	115	114	106	127	106	105	112		124
Dec.	92	92	89	95	85	93	113	112	105	123	104	101	100		116
1975 Jan.	91	87	105	102	94	89	119	113	107	123	111	100	114		114
Feb.	95	95	95	101	95	89	116	115	106	128	112	102	113		118
Mar.	88	87	93	100	94	89	113	111	101	126	109	98	104		127
Apr.	80	76	92	97	94	91	106	106	100	115	111	97	98		122
May	70	66	85	100	96	91	111	105	99	115	111	97	100		118
Jun.	70	63	90	101	96	91	113	103	101	106	112	93	103		117
Jul.	72	66	91	101	94	85	117	101	102	100	110	95	105		116
Aug.	73	69	87	100	94	84	115	103	96	113	107	92	98		112
Sept.	69	64	85	100	93	84	116	110	109	111	107	92	114		117
Oct.	76	72	88	100	95	84	112	106	105	107	106	96	107		123
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	−2.6	+4.6	−1.9	−1.0	−1.5	−5.9	+0.6	+2.6	+2.5	+2.8	−3.7	−1.9	+3.5		+0.1
% change latest 3 months on a year earlier	−21.0	−22.6	−17.2	−3.8	−5.4	−11.0	—	−8.3	−3.7	−14.7	−1.5	−13.6	−8.1		−6.9

Engineering sales and orders (SIC Orders VII, VIII, and IX) to September

The provisional trend estimates and seasonally adjusted volume index numbers of engineering sales and orders to September are contained in the accompanying table. There has been some revision to our past series to accommodate the updating of our seasonal adjustment procedure; a process which is designed to remove annually recurring month-to-month variation and thus facilitating interpretation. A full set of revisions back to the beginning of 1973 will be published in the issue of the Business Monitor PM 33-36, containing the September figures. The trends in the volume of sales have only been slightly changed and still show decreases both to the home and export markets throughout the first three-quarters of this year. The former decrease in the trend of new business appears to have levelled out in recent months following a two-year period of

Index numbers for the combined engineering industries (SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX) (a)

Volume index numbers: Orders-on-hand. December 1970 unadjusted = 100 Net new orders and sales, 1970 average monthly sales = 100

	Total			Home			Export		
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New net orders	Sales
Trend estimates									
1974 January	134	124	110	134	117	112	136	140	104
February	136	120	109	134	113	111	139	138	106
March	137	117	110	134	110	110	143	135	108
April	137	115	110	134	108	111	145	131	110
May	138	113	112	133	108	112	147	126	112
June	137	112	113	132	109	112	147	120	114
July	137	110	113	132	108	112	147	114	116
August	136	107	113	131	106	112	146	108	117
September	134	104	113	129	103	112	144	104	117
October	133	100	113	128	99	111	142	101	118
November	130	97	113	125	96	111	140	99	118
December	128	94	113	123	92	111	138	97	118
1975 January	125	92	113	120	91	110	135	95	118
February	122	92	112	117	91	110	132	94	117
March	119	92	111	115	91	109	129	95	117
April	117	92	110	112	91	108	127	97	116
May	115	92	109	110	89	106	125	100	116
June	113	92	108	107	88	104	123	101	115
July	111	91	107	105	87	103	122	102	114
August	109	90	106	103	86	103	120	101	114
September	107	90	105	101	86	102	119	101	113
Percentage change (b) June-September 1975	−5.0	−1.5	−2.0	−6.0	−2.0	−2.0	−3.0	−0.5	−2.0
Seasonally adjusted									
1969	101	100	97	102	99	99	100	102	91
1970	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100
1971	93	97	101	95	98	101	89	93	102
1972	99	103	101	103	108	105	90	91	92
1973	133	134	113	134	136	117	131	131	102
1974	128	109	111	123	105	111	139	118	113
1974 1st quarter	136	117	108	133	109	110	142	135	105
2nd quarter	138	117	112	133	112	111	148	128	113
3rd quarter	134	106	114	130	106	112	144	105	117
4th quarter	128	97	112	123	94	110	139	104	117
1975 1st quarter	119	90	112	114	90	110	128	89	118
2nd quarter	113	95	109	108	92	106	123	102	115
3rd quarter	106	90	106	100	85	103	119	100	114
1974 January	135	119	105	134	111	107	136	138	101
February	136	117	109	134	111	109	139	132	107
March	136	113	111	133	104	113	142	135	108
April	137	119	111	133	112	111	145	136	112
May	138	115	110	133	108	110	148	130	110
June	138	116	114	133	115	113	148	118	116
July	136	103	114	131	99	114	148	114	115
August	135	106	114	130	105	112	146	106	120
September	134	108	113	130	113	112	144	96	116
October	133	102	113	128	99	110	142	110	119
November	131	94	112	126	95	110	140	94	115
December	128	93	112	123	88	109	139	108	118
1975 January	124	86	114	119	85	112	135	88	119
February	122	97	113	117	98	111	132	95	118
March	119	85	110	114	86	108	128	85	117
April	116	95	112	112	95	111	126	96	115
May	116	101	107	110	95	104	126	115	115
June	113	89	107	108	86	103	123	94	115
July	110	84	109	104	77	105	121	99	119
August	109	95	102	102	87	98	121	114	110
September	106	90	108	100	91	107	119	88	112
April-June 1975 (av.)	113	95	109	108	92	106	123	102	115
July-Sept 1975 (av.)	106	90	106	100	85	103	119	100	114
Percentage change (b)	−6.0	−5.5	−2.0	−7.5	−7.5	−2.5	−4.0	−1.0	−1.0

(a) All figures are provisional.

(b) For orders on hand, the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point.

rapid decline. In recent months new business to the home market was weaker than to the export market. The inflow of new orders is still below current sales, and order books have continued to fall throughout the engineering sector.

In recent months there has been a continuation in the decline in sales from their earlier peak level in the third quarter of 1974. The trend estimates show that the volume of total sales fell by 2 per cent between June and September with deliveries to the home and export markets showing similar rates of decline. Sales in most engineering sectors followed this pattern of moderate decline.

The trend in the volume of total net orders fell by 1½ per cent during the three months ended September. New contracts to the export market after showing a slight recovery in the second quarter levelled off in the third. New orders for the home market showed a much weaker trend than for the export market and declined by 2 per cent between June and September.

The level of sales is still at a considerably higher level than the receipt of new orders with a resultant fall in the level of order books. Between June and September there was a fall of 5 per cent in total orders-on-hand, with home order books shortening by 6 per cent and export order books by 3 per cent.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the Monthly Engineering Inquiry relating to September 1975. The response rate of 85 per cent to the inquiry for September is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for June, July, and August response rates for these months were 91, 87 and 87 per cent respectively.

When using the volume index numbers and trends shown in the accompanying table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the values of engineering sales and orders to constant prices become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the volume estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months and studies are currently in hand to ascertain the possible directions and magnitudes of any biasses, which may lead to revisions in due course.

Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders) is obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £2.10 per annum. Volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hands and net new orders for total, home and export markets, for each of the three SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX (mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering respectively).

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, for the two weeks ended Friday, 26 December 1975.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
The Man Who Would Be King	BR/E 38384/20/12/80	128	17 December	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd.
And Then There Were None	BR/E 38387/20/12/80	98	18 December	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Filibuster Films Ltd.
Review No. 4 (29th Year)	BR/E 38389/20/12/80	10	19 December	Data Film Distributors Ltd.	National Coal Board
Christmas Tree	BR/E 38390/20/12/80	12	19 December	Columbia Warner Distributors Ltd.	Julian Chagrin Films Ltd.
A Persian Fairy Tale	BR/E 38395/27/12/80	31	22 December	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Ilchester Park Productions Ltd.
A Story of Tutankhamun	BR/E 38396/27/12/80	52	22 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Ginger Film Productions Ltd.
Asian Variations	BR/E 38400/27/12/80	25	24 December	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Harold Baim Presentations Ltd.
The Great Mill Race	BR/E 38401/27/12/80	31	24 December	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Robin Crichton T/A Edinburgh Film Productions
Side By Side	BR/E 38402/27/12/80	85	24 December	GTO L2R Ltd.	GTO L2R Ltd.
Movietone News 2428	BR/E 38143/20/12/80	8	19 December	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Movietone News 2429	BR/E 38144/27/12/80	8	24 December	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Fox	EC 38388/20/12/80	125	19 December	Cinegate Ltd.	Tango Film Produktion, Munich
			FOREIGN		
The Story Of Perseus	F 38371	20	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Soyuzmultfilm, USSR
The Nutcracker	F 38372	30	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Soyuzmultfilm, USSR
The Golden Antelope	F 38373	30	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Soyuzmultfilm, USSR
The Snow Queen	F 38374	80	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Lenfilm, USSR
Island In The Snow	F 38375	85	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Mosfilm, USSR
Merry Musketeers	F 38376	70	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Riga Film Studio Productions, USSR
Treasure Island	F 38377	75	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Gorky Studio of Films for Children and Youth, USSR
Othello, Why Waste Your Time	F 38378	1	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Soyuzmultfilm, USSR
Ball Of Wool	F 38379	10	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Soyuzmultfilm, USSR
Life and Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe	F 38380	87	15 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Odessa Film, USSR
Number One	F 38381	10	15 December	Contemporary Films Ltd.	Joachim Kreck, West Germany
I'd Like To See The World	F 38382	7	15 December	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Coco-Cola Company, Georgia
Lenny	F 38383	111	15 December	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Marvin Worth Productions, California
The Sunshine Boys	F 38385	112	18 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Jaws	F 38386	125	18 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Elektreia	F 38391	76	22 December	Connoisseur Films Ltd.	Hungarofilm, Budapest
The Miraculous Mandarin	F 38392	35	22 December	Connoisseur Films Ltd.	Hungarofilm, Budapest
Black Mountain	F 38393	50	22 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Tsentrnauch Film, USSR, and Society of Children's Films of India, India
Guns Across The Veldt	F 38394	81	22 December	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Cheetah Film Productions (PTY) Ltd., South Africa
Wild Swans	F 38397	60	23 December	Brian Jackson Films Ltd.	Soyuzmultfilm, USSR
Fraud	F 38398	88	23 December	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Scorpio Films (PTY) Ltd., Johannesburg
Konfrontation – Assassination at Davos	F 38399	115	23 December	Contemporary Films Ltd.	Ralph Lyssy Production, Switzerland

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Release dates of economic statistics to be published in January

This notice is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in January. The dates are those which Departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date	Series	Method of release*	Source
January			
2 Fri.	Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Sept.)	T and I	Department of industry
	Capital issues and redemptions (during month of December)	PN	Bank of England
5 Mon.	United Kingdom official reserves (Dec.)	PN	HM Treasury
	Investment intentions of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries for 1976 and 1977	PN	Department of Industry
6 Tues.	Provisional figures of vehicle production and estimates of new car registrations (Dec. – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
7 Wed.	London clearing banks. monthly statement (mid-Dec.)	PN	Bank of England
	UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid.-Dec.)	PN	Bank of England
8 Thurs.	Consolidated Fund and National Loans Fund (Dec.)	London Gazette	HM Treasury
9 Fri.	Personal income, expenditure and savings (3rd qtr.); gross domestic product (3rd qtr. – rev.)	PN	CSO
12 Mon.	Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Nov.)	PN	Department of industry
	Retail trade (Nov. – final)	PN	Department of industry
	Turnover of the catering trades (Nov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Wholesale price index numbers (Dec.)	PN	Department of Industry
15 Thurs.	Index of industrial production (Nov.)	PN	CSO
	Crude steel production (Dec.)	PN	BSC/BISPA
16 Fri.	Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures incorporating the import and export unit value and volume index numbers and the terms of trade (Dec.)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
	Retail prices index (Dec.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Building Societies receipts and loans (Dec.)	PN	BSA
19 Mon.	UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Dec.)	PN	Bank of England
	Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Dec.) / Monthly index of average earnings (Nov.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Dec.)	PN	Bank of England
	London dollar certificates of deposit (mid-Dec.)	PN	Bank of England
	Retail trade (Dec. – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
20 Tues.	Unemployment (Jan. – prov) / Unfilled vacancies (Jan. – prov.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Appropriation account of companies (3rd qtr.) / Net acquisition of financial assets – analysis by sector (3rd qtr.) / Financial accounts of industrial and commercial company and personal sectors (3rd qtr.)	PN	CSO
21 Wed.	Consumers' expenditure (1st preliminary estimate) (4th qtr.)	PN	CSO
22 Thurs.	Car and commercial vehicle production (Dec. – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	New vehicle registrations (Dec.)	PN	Department of the Environment
25 Sun.	National Savings monthly progress (Dec.)	PN	National Savings Committee
27 Tues.	Construction – new orders (Nov.)	PN	Department of the Environment
29 Thurs.	Central Government borrowing requirement (Dec.)	Fin. Stats.	CSO/ Treasury
	Unemployment (Dec. – final) / Employment in production industries / Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Nov.) / Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Dec.)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Energy trends	PN	Department of Energy
	Slum clearance (4th qtr. – prov.) / Housing starts and completions (Dec. – prov.) / House renovation grants (Dec. – prov.)	PN	Department of the Environment
30 Fri.	Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Oct.)	T and I	Department of Industry
	Bricks and cement production (Dec.)	PN	Department of the Environment

* PN = Press Notice.

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HMSO BOOKS

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	28 Nov. 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	19 Dec. 1975
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	17 Oct. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	5 Dec. 1975
Catering trades turnover (M)	19 Dec. 1975
Census of production (A)	19 Dec. 1974
(amendment)	16 Jan. 1975
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	This week
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
insolvencies (Q)	31 Oct. 1975
liquidity (Q)	12 Dec. 1975
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	19 Dec. 1975
N. Ireland (M)	28 Nov. 1975
rate of return on capital	24 Oct. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
EEC economic indicators	5 Dec. 1975
Energy trends (M)	5 Dec. 1975
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	This week
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	14 Nov. 1975
cinema admissions and takings (M)	12 Dec. 1975
overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
registrations of films (A)	6 Feb. 1975
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	10 Oct. 1975
household consumption (Q)	3 Oct. 1975
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	19 Dec. 1975
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	5 Dec. 1975
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	8 Aug. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	12 Dec. 1975
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	This week
N. Ireland index (M)	24 Oct. 1975
Wales	10 Oct. 1975
Insolvencies in England and Wales (Q)	31 Oct. 1975
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	10 Oct. 1975
investment and earnings overseas (A)	14 Mar. 1975
(amendment)	21 Mar. 1975
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
production (M)	12 Dec. 1975
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
Metal working machine tools: sales and orders (M)	31 Oct. 1975
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	This week
estimated figures (M)	12 Dec. 1975
motor trade turnover (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
Office development permits (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	11 Apr. 1975
analysis of trends (Q)	5 Dec. 1975
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Paper and board production (M)	30 Jan. 1975
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Regional selective assistance (M)	28 Nov. 1975
Retail prices index (M)	19 Dec. 1975
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	12 Dec. 1975
provisional figures (M)	19 Dec. 1975
sales, N. Ireland (M)	28 Nov. 1975
stocks (M)	19 Dec. 1975
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	11 Apr. 1975
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	23 Jan. 1975
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	This week
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	5 Dec. 1975
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	5 Dec. 1975
retail (M)	28 Nov. 1975
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	7 Nov. 1975
carpet sales (M)	19 Dec. 1975
cotton industry production (M)	This week
hosiery production (M)	19 Dec. 1975
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	19 Dec. 1975
wholesale houses' sales (M)	This week
wool exports (Q)	28 Nov. 1975
wool output (M)	This week
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	31 Oct. 1975
overseas travel and tourism (A)	This week
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	13 June 1975
index numbers (M)	19 Dec. 1975

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	3 Oct. 1975
Customs notices of interest to exporters	This week
ECGD local offices	This week
Guide to Departments	21 Nov. 1975
Official Receivers' offices	5 Dec. 1975
Programme of trade promotions	24 Oct. 1975
Release dates of economic statistics	This week

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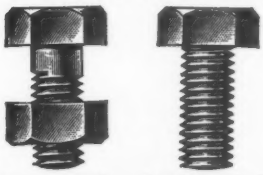

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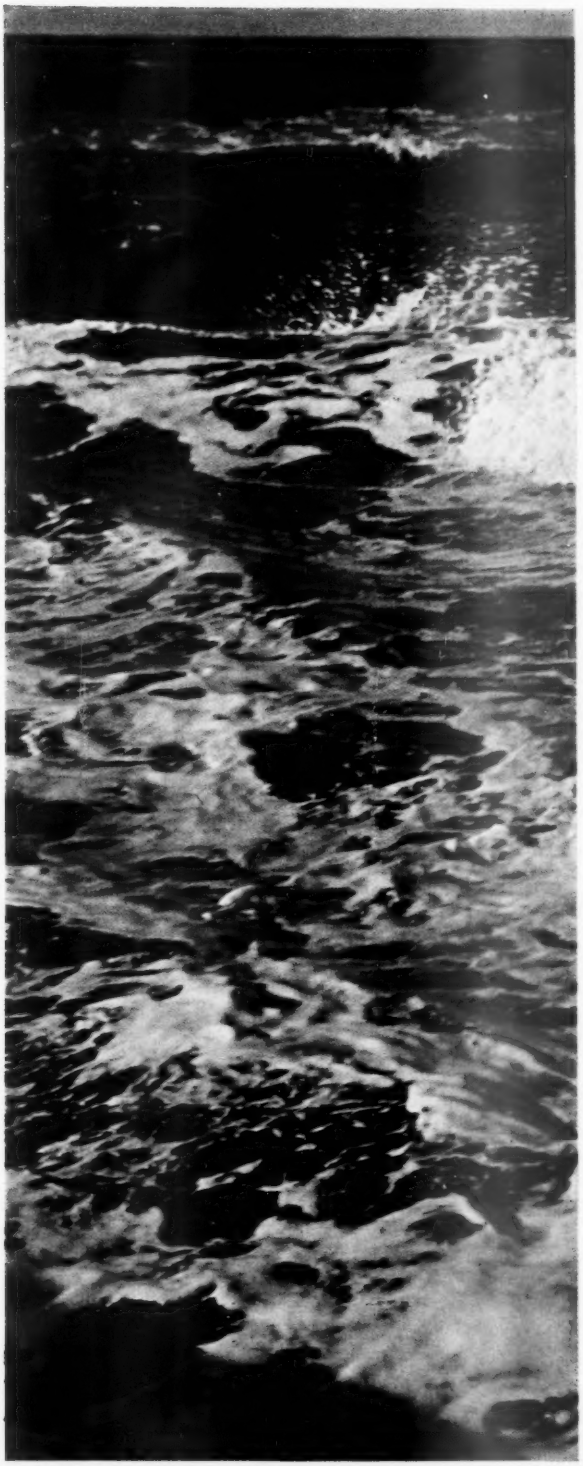


How high is the sky?

You probably think that air cargo rates are sky high and that going by sea, although it takes longer, is cheaper.

Therefore you'll probably be surprised that one tonne by air can be much cheaper than the same tonne by sea.

This is not readily apparent when you ask for the going rates. That's because air rates are quoted by weight and usually charged by weight. Sea rates are again quoted by weight but more often than not, they're charged by volume.

Take a one tonne shipment with a volume of 7 cubic metres. The quoted rate on that could be £60 per tonne by sea, £350 per tonne by air—obviously cheaper by sea. But wait until you get the actual charges. Because the consignment is bulky, the sea companies will switch to volume rate— £60 per cubic metre. That makes the actual charges £420 by sea and £350 by air because the air rates are not charged by volume until the shipment is over 7 cubic metres.

To get the real cost, you need to talk it over. Give us the opportunity to talk to you and we'll give you a number of examples from glassware to shoes that have saved other companies money.

The service is free and confidential. It's backed by British Airways Cargo who feel that in many instances the use of air cargo facilities can cut your distribution costs.

Fill in the coupon or telephone David Ross in London on 01-759 5511 Ext. 2097 or Alan Howard in Birmingham on 021-743 4644.

To: The Distribution Advisory Service, York House, P.O. Box 10, Heathrow Airport, Hounslow, Middx. TW6 2JA.

Please arrange for a Distribution Advisory Service representative to contact me.

Name

Position

Company

What is the export product?

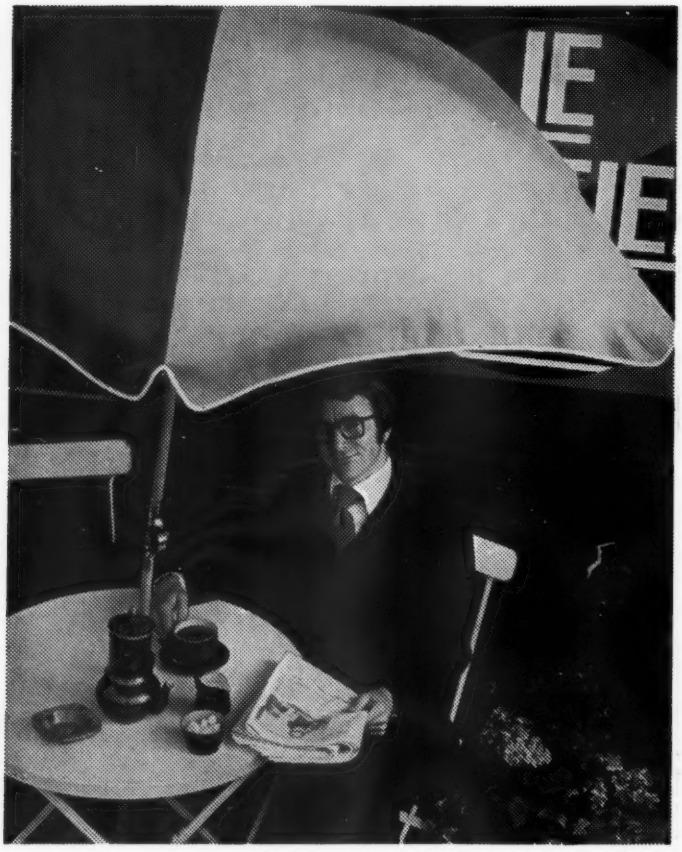
Address

Tel. No:

THE DISTRIBUTION ADVISORY SERVICE.

How ECGD helps companies expand through exporting.

Get umbrella cover-our Guarantee can protect all your exports.



If you have our Comprehensive policy we can cover all your sales and give you two vitally important benefits for your export success.

First, we pay 90 per cent of your losses if your buyer goes broke or fails to pay for goods accepted– 95 per cent for losses caused by acts of government, such as exchange restrictions, new import regulations or war.

Second, we give improved access to export finance. Under our Guarantee banks provide finance at preferential rates of interest. The rate is ½ per cent above base rate for credit up to two years and at a fixed rate for two to five years, with a minimum of 7 per cent.

For more details get in touch now with ECGD.

ECGD

helps companies expand through exporting.
Make full use of ECGD services for exporters.

ACTION NOW: Contact the Information Officer, Export Credits Guarantee Department, quoting reference TIQ at Glasgow, Belfast, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, Bristol, London West End, Croydon or Tottenham Regional Offices or Miss Butler, Information Section TIQ, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL. (Tel: 01-606 6699 ext 258).

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